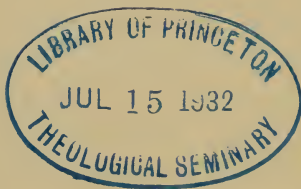


Prayers of the Saints

CECIL HEADLAM



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Headlam, Cecil, 1872-
Prayers of the saints

Prayers of the Saints

The four beasts and four-and-twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.—*Rev.* v. 8.

And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God, out of the angel's hand.

Rev. viii. 3, 4.

✓
JUL 15 1932
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Prayers of the Saints

BEING

A Manual of Devotions Compiled from
the Supplications of the Holy Saints
and Blessed Martyrs and
Famous Men

✓
BY

✓
CECIL HEADLAM, B.A. Oxon.

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PREFACE

SCATTERED up and down the works of the early Fathers, in the records of the lives of the Saints, and in our own Literature, there are to be found many beautiful and touching prayers. Composed in the study of the scholar, in the calm devotion of cloisteral solitude, or amidst the dust and heat of public affairs ; wrung from the tortured soul of the confessing penitent, or bursting from the happy lips of martyrs at the stake, these prayers of men so various and sincere have all, it seemed to me, their value, as the outpourings of faithful followers of Christ and members of His suffering or triumphant Church. Some of these, therefore, I have collected and translated here, in the hope that they may be read and used by others not without some of the profit and interest which I have myself derived from making the collection.

Had there been more time and more space at

my disposal, this book might doubtless have been much enlarged and improved. As it is, I earnestly hope that its omissions will be found to be its chief defect, and that nothing here included will give any occasion for offence.

4 SMITH SQUARE,

WESTMINSTER,

S. Patrick's Day, 1898.

THE following are among the chief sources from which I have translated or copied the prayers in this book :—

Migne's *Patrologiæ Cursus Completus* (containing the works of the early Fathers in Greek or Latin).

Acta Sanctorum : the vast treasury of material in Latin and Greek collected by the Bollandists.

Lives of the Saints, by Baring-Gould.

Brett's *Collection of Early Liturgies*.

Gelasian Sacramentary (H. A. Wilson).

Imitatio Christi.

Abp. Laud's *Devotions*.

Eikon Basilike.

Abp. Tillotson's *Works*.

Bright's *Ancient Collects*.

Spincke's *Devotions*.

Dr. Johnson's *Works*.

Dean Swift's *Works*.

Francis Bacon's Works.

No Cross, No Crown. Wm. Penn.

Memoirs of Sir Richard Steele. Montgomery.

Dr. Donne's Works.

Bp. Jeremy Taylor. Holy Living and Dying.

Sir Thomas More (Life).

Private Prayers. Pusey.

Brightman. Eastern Liturgies.

Bp. Wilson. Sacra Privata.

Bp. Andrewes. Devotions.

Prayers of the Saints

Jan. 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY



ALMIGHTY GOD, by Whose mercy I am permitted to behold the beginning of another year, succour with Thy help and bless with Thy favour, the creature whom Thou vouchsafest to preserve. Mitigate, if it shall seem best unto Thee, the diseases of my body and compose the disorders of my mind. Dispel my terrors, and grant that the time which Thou shalt yet allow me, may not pass unprofitably away. Let not pleasure seduce me, idleness lull me, or misery depress me. Let me perform to Thy glory, and the good of my fellow-creatures, the work which Thou shalt yet appoint me, and grant that as I draw nearer to my dissolution, I may, by the help of Thy Holy Spirit, feel my knowledge of Thee increased, my hope exalted, my faith strengthened: that when the hour which is coming, shall come, I may pass by a holy death to everlasting

happiness, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.* *Amen.*



Jan. 5

S. SIMEON STYLITES, H.

Prayer for his Mother

LORD GOD of virtues, Guide of the wayward, Who sittest above the Cherubim and searchest the foundations of the abyss, Who knewest Adam before he was; Who hast promised the riches of the Kingdom of Heaven to those who love Thee; Who didst speak to Moses out of the burning bush; Who blessedst Abraham, our Father; Who bringest to Paradise the souls of the just and sinkest the souls of the ungodly in perdition; Who didst humble the lions before Daniel and mitigate for the three Children the strong fire of the Chaldees; Who didst nourish Elijah by the ravens which brought him food and restored to life Lazarus on the fourth day, receive my mother's soul in peace, and put her in the place of the holy fathers, for Thine is the power for ever and ever. *Amen.*

* Dr. Johnson.



Jan. 10

WILLIAM LAUD, Abp. M.

Resignation of Myself

 LORD JESUS, give me to do what Thou commandest, and command what Thou wilt. Prepare my soul against Thy coming and come when Thou wilt. Give me, if it please Thee, a most serene patience, but at least as much as is sufficient for me, and come how Thou wilt, O Thou that art the Saviour of all that hope in Thee. And moreover I beseech Thee, O Lord Jesus, interpose Thy death, cross, passion, merit, and blood between Thy judgment and my soul, now and ever, and especially in the hour of my death. Which death I earnestly beg may never be sudden, may it never come and find me unprepared; and when it comes, never let it rage so, but that I may retain faith, hope, and charity, a sound memory and understanding even to the last gasp. And be Thou my defender, O God. Grant mercy and pardon to my sins, to Thy Church peace and concord, to me, the chief of sinners, grace in this life, and glory in the life to come. So, even so, come, O Lord Jesus, and have mercy upon me. *Amen.*



Jan. 10

On the Anniversaries of the Deaths of
his Father and Mother

O ETERNAL God and merciful Father, with whom do rest the souls of them that die in Thy faith and favour, have mercy upon me, and grant that my life may be a preparation to die, and my death an entrance to life with Thee. As upon this day it pleased Thee to take my dear father to Thy mercy, when I was yet young. O Lord, he was Thy servant, Thy meek, humble, faithful servant ; and I assure myself he is in rest, and light, and blessedness. Lord, while I am here behind in my pilgrimage, shower down Thy grace upon me. Thou hast been more than a father to me ; Thou hast not suffered me to want a father ; no, not when Thou hadst taken him from me. O be pleased to be a father still, and by Thy grace to keep me within the bounds of a son's obedience. Thou hast given me temporal blessings beyond desert or hope ; O be graciously pleased to heap spiritual blessings on me, that I may grow in faith, obedience, and thankfulness to Thee ; that I may make it my joy to perform duty to Thee. And after my painful life is ended, bring me, I beseech Thee, to Thy joys, to Thy glory, to Thyself ; that I and my parents, with all Thy saints and servants departed this life, may meet in a blessed glorious resurrection, ever to sing praises and honour to

Thee, in and through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Jan. 13

S. HILARY, B.D.



LORD, I pray Thee let not my weakness distract me, but let my speech be of that alone in which the salvation of my soul consists; and let me never break forth to that degree both of folly and wickedness, as to wish to be a judge of Thy omnipotence, and of Thy sacraments; and suffer me not to exalt my weak opinion above either the divine determination of Thy infinity, or that belief of Thy eternity which has been revealed to me. *Amen.*



Jan. 13

S. KENTIGERN, B.



MAY the will of God be wrought in all of us, and let Him do unto us all as seemeth Him best, according to His perfect knowledge.



*Jan. 21***S. AGNES, V.M.****Prayer at the Stake**

LORD GOD, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, I give Thee thanks for that, through Thine Only Begotten Son, I have escaped the threats of impious men, and passed with unsullied footstep over the filthy slough of the devil.

And behold now through the Holy Ghost I am sprinkled with heavenly dew ; the furnace grows cold at my side, and the flame is divided asunder, and the heat of the fire is poured back on to those by whom it was kindled. I bless Thee, O Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, who permittest me to come to Thee, undaunted even in the midst of flames. Lo ! now what I have believed that I see ; what I have hoped, that I now hold ; what I have desired, that I embrace. Thee I confess with my lips ; with my heart and all my being I desire Thee. Behold, I come to Thee, the one and true God, who with our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son, and with the Holy Ghost, livest and reignest through all eternity. *Amen.*



*Jan. 22***S. VINCENT, M.**

EVERLASTING GOD, to whom all hidden things are revealed, who didst send into the world Thine Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, conceived through the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, that He might take on Him the punishment of our sins, and by His resurrection snatch us from the gates of hell, grant to our hearts such steadfastness of faith that confessing Christ, Thy Son, we may not perish but may be joined to Him in the confession of Thy Holy Name. *Amen.*

*Jan. 25***THE CONVERSION OF S. PAUL****Collect I**

GOD, who, through the preaching of the blessed Apostle Saint Paul, hast caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world; grant, we beseech thee, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show forth our thankfulness unto Thee for the same, by following the holy doctrine which he taught; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Jan. 25

Collect II

O GOD, Who hast made the light of Thy Gospel to shine through the world by the preaching of Thy blessed Apostle St. Paul, whose miraculous conversion we now thankfully commemorate ; send forth Thy light into my heart, that I may always keep in mind, and diligently practise the doctrines he taught, resolutely follow his example, and being faithful unto death, at last receive a crown of life and glory. Give also unto all who are misled by error, or seduced by vice, Thy converting grace, that by Thy heavenly light their blindness may be removed, and their weakness cured, through Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

*Jan. 25*

PRAYERS OF S. PAUL

I

WHEREFORE I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers ; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom, and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the

eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places.

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be fitted with all the fulness of God.

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the Church, by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end.* *Amen.*

* Epistle to the Ephesians.



II

AND this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and all judgment, that ye may approve things that are excellent, that ye may be sincere, and without offence till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ unto the glory and praise of God.*



III

FOR this cause we also cease not to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His Will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all might according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness, giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the saints in light, who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us unto the kingdom of His dear Son, in whom we have redemption through His Blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

* Epistle to the Philippians.

Now unto God, your Father, be glory for ever and ever.* *Amen.*



Jan. 26

THE PRAYER OF S. POLYCARP AT HIS MARTYRDOM



FATHER of Thy well-beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, through whom we have known Thee; O God of the Angels and powers and of every living creature, and of all sorts of just men which live in Thy presence, I thank Thee that Thou hast graciously vouchsafed this day and this hour to allot me a portion among the number of martyrs, among the people of Christ unto the resurrection of the everlasting life, both of body and soul, in the incorruption of the Holy Ghost; among whom I shall be received in Thy sight this day, as a fruitful and acceptable sacrifice, as Thou hast heretofore prepared, often revealed and now fulfilled, most faithful God who canst not lie. Wherefore for all things I praise Thee, I bless Thee, I glorify Thee, through the everlasting High Priest, Jesus Christ, Thy well-beloved Son, to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all glory, world without end. *Amen.*

* Epistle to the Colossians.

*Jan. 27***S. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, B.****I**

LMIGHTY GOD, who hast given us grace at this time to make our common supplications unto Thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in Thy name Thou wilt grant their requests: fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of Thy servants, as may be most expedient for them, granting us in this world knowledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come, life everlasting. *Amen.*

**II**

REMEMBER, O Lord, this city wherein we dwell and every other city and country, and all the faithful who dwell in them. Remember, O Lord, all who travel by land or water, all that labour under sickness or slavery; remember them for health and safety. Remember, O Lord, those in Thy Holy Church who bring forth good fruit, are rich in good works and forget not the poor. Grant unto us all Thy mercy and loving-kindness, and grant that we may with one mouth and one heart praise and glorify Thy great and glorious name, Father,

Son, and Holy Ghost, now, henceforth, and for ever. *Amen.*



Jan. 30

KING CHARLES THE MARTYR

Collect

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, whose righteousness is like the strong mountains, and Thy judgments like the great deep ; teach us so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

And grant that neither the splendour of anything that is great, nor the conceit of anything that is good in us, may withdraw our eyes from looking upon ourselves as sinful dust and ashes ; but that we may press forward to the prize of the high calling that is before us, in faith and patience, humility and meekness, mortification and self-denial, charity and constant perseverance unto the end. And all this for Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, His sake : to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*



Prayers of King Charles in the Time
of his Suffering

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, look down upon me, Thy unworthy servant, who here prostrate myself at the footstool of Thy throne of grace ; but look upon me, O Father, through the mediations and the merits of Jesus Christ, in whom Thou art only well pleased ; for of myself I am not worthy to stand before Thee, or to speak with my unclean lips to Thee, most holy and eternal God : for as in sin I was conceived and born, so likewise I have broken all Thy Commandments by my sinful motions, unclean thoughts, evil words, and wicked works ; omitting many duties I ought to do, and committing many vices which Thou hast forbidden under pain of Thy heavy displeasure.

As for my sins, O Lord, they are innumerable ; wherefore I stand here liable to all the miseries in this life, and everlasting torments in the world to come, if Thou shouldst deal with me according to my deserts. I confess, O Lord, that it is Thy mercy (which endureth for ever) and Thy compassion (which never fails) which is the cause that I have not long ago been consumed ; but with Thee there is mercy and plenteous redemption ; in the multitude, therefore, of Thy mercies, and by the merits of Jesus Christ, I entreat Thy Divine Majesty that Thou wouldst not enter into judgment with Thy servant, nor

be extreme to mark what is done amiss ; but be Thou merciful unto me, and wash away all my sins with that Precious Blood my Saviour shed for me. And I beseech Thee, O Lord, not only to wash away all my sins, but also to purge my heart by Thy Holy Spirit from the dross of my natural corruption ; and as Thou dost add days to my life, so, good Lord, I beseech Thee to add repentance to my days, that when I have past this mortal life, I may be partaker of Thy everlasting kingdom, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



O MOST merciful Father, though my sins are so grievous that I may rather expect the effects of Thy anger than so great a deliverance as to free me from my present great danger, yet, O Lord, since Thy mercies are over all Thy works, and Thou never failest to relieve all those who with humble and unfeigned repentance come to Thee for succour, it were to multiply not to diminish my transgressions to despair of Thy heavenly favour ; wherefore I humbly desire Thy divine majesty that Thou wilt not only pardon all my sins but also free me out of the hands and protect me from the malice of my cruel enemies. But if Thy wrath against my heinous offences will not otherwise be satisfied than by suffering me to fall under my present

afflictions, Thy will be done. Yet with humble importunity I do and shall never cease to implore the assistance of Thy heavenly spirit, that my cause, as I am Thy viceregent, may not suffer through my weakness or want of courage. O Lord, so strengthen and enlighten all the faculties of my mind, that with clearness I may show forth Thy truth, and manfully endure this bloody trial : that so my sufferings here may not only glorify Thee, but likewise be a furtherance to my salvation hereafter. Grant this, O merciful Father, for His sake who suffered for me, even Jesus Christ the righteous. *Amen.*



Feb. I

S. IGNATIUS, B.M.

To the Church at Rome

ASK for me this only in your prayers, that strength may be given me of the Lord that I may not be called but proved to be a Christian. Then shall I be seen to be faithful when the world no longer sees me. For nothing that appeareth is eternal. For the things which are perceived are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. I write to the Churches and charge you all that willingly I die for Christ, if you prevent me not. I ask of you that your love for me be not untimely ; allow

me to be devoured of wild beasts, through whom I may attain unto God. I am the grain of God ground between the teeth of wild beasts, that I may be found to be the pure bread of Christ. Then indeed shall I be the true disciple of Christ when the world shall no longer behold my body. Beseech Christ on my behalf that through these means I may be found a perfect sacrifice. Not as Peter and Paul do I command you. They were apostles, I am the least of them ; they were free, but I am a slave even unto this day, but, if you wish, I shall be the freedman of Jesus Christ, and in Him I shall rise again and be free. *Amen.*



Feb. 2

THE PURIFICATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Collect I

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we humbly beseech Thy Majesty, that, as Thine only begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto Thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Collect II

O GOD, whose blessed Son, to fulfil all righteousness, was presented, as at this time, in the temple to be redeemed according to the law ; give me grace to adore and praise His wonderful condescension, and by this great example, to learn the duty of submitting to Thy wise and holy discipline, though sometimes perhaps it may seem unnecessary for me ; and grant that not only by a constant attendance on the public institutions of religion, but an exemplary and holy life and conversation, I may glorify my Blessed Saviour, the light of the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel, who with Thee and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. *Amen.*



The Prayer of Simeon

LORD, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word ; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation ; which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people ; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.*

* Luke ii. 29.

Feb. 3

PRAYER OF S. ANSKAR

NE miracle, if I were worthy, would I ask the Lord to grant me, that by His grace and infinite mercy, He should make of me, the miserable sinner, a good and holy man.

*Feb. 5*

S. AGATHA, M.

Dying Prayer

LORD my creator, who didst guard me in my childhood and cause me to grow to years of maidenhood; who hast taken from me the love of this world and kept my body from defilement; who hast made me to conquer the torments of the persecutor, even steel, fire and chains; who hast granted me the virtue of patience amid my torturers; I pray Thee now to receive my spirit, for the time is come when Thou biddest me to leave this world, and to seek Thy mercy, O Lord.



*Feb. 12***S. ETHELWOLD, B.**

WE beseech Thee, Lord, open Thy heavens, open our eyes; from thence may Thy gifts descend to us; from hence may our hearts look back to Thee. May Thy throne be laid open to us, while we receive the benefits which we implore; may our mind be laid open to Thee, while we render the service which is enjoined to us. Look down from Heaven, O Lord, behold and visit this vine which Thy right hand hath planted. Strengthen the weak, relieve the contrite, confirm the strong. Build them up in love, cleanse them with purity, enlighten them with wisdom, keep them with mercy. Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, who didst lay down Thy life for the sheep, defend the purchase of Thy blood. Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, seek for the lost, convert the wandering, bind up that which is broken. Put forth Thine own hand from Heaven, and touch the head of each one here. May they feel the touch of Thy hand, and receive the joy of the Holy Spirit, that they may remain blessed for evermore. *Amen.*



Feb. 12

PRAYER OF ST. EULALIA, V.M.
IN HER AGONY

LORD JESUS CHRIST, hear my prayer and perfect Thy merciful goodness in me, and grant me to be received among the number of Thine elect into the rest of life eternal, making of me a sign of righteousness that men believing on Thee may behold and praise Thy power. *Amen.*

*Feb. 17*

S. CÆDMON

LET us now praise the Guardian of the Kingdom of Heaven and the might of the Creator, and the thought of His Mind, glorious Father of men; for He, Lord Eternal, did frame the beginning of every marvellous thing. He first made the heavens as a roof for the children of men, God, the Creator! Then the mid-earth did the eternal Lord, the Guardian of men, therewith provide, and earth for men, the Lord God Almighty! *

* The first outpourings of our earliest poet. "The man was placed in worldly life until the time that he was of mature age, and had never

*Feb. 24***S. MATTHIAS, A.M.****Collect**

ALMIGHTY GOD, who into the place of the traitor Judas didst choose thy faithful servant Matthias to be of the number of the twelve Apostles; grant that

learned any poem, and often therefore in convivial society, where, for the sake of mirth, it was resolved that they all should sing in turn to the harp, when he saw the harp approaching him, then from shame he would rise from the assembly and go home to his house. When he had done so on a certain occasion, and had left the convivial meeting and gone out to the cattle byre, the care of which that night had been committed to him, when he there, at a proper time, placed his limbs on the bed and slept, then there stood a certain man by him in a dream and hailed and greeted him, named him by his name, saying ‘Cædmon, sing me something’; then he answered and said, ‘I cannot sing anything, and therefore I went out from this convivial meeting and retired hither, because I could not.’ Again he who was speaking with him said, ‘Yet thou must sing to me.’ He said, ‘What shall I sing?’ He said, ‘Sing me the origin of things.’ When he received this answer, then he began forthwith to sing in praise of God the Creator these verses and words which he had never heard . . .”—Bede, “Eccles. History,” after Thorpe’s Translation.

Thy Church, being always preserved from false Apostles, may be ordered and guided by faithful and true pastors ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



March 1

S. DAVID



LORD, raise me up after Thee !



March 2

S. CHAD, Abp.

(Being Warned of his approaching Death,
informs some of the Brethren)



HAT beloved Guest who was wont to visit our brethren has deigned to come to me also this day and to summon me from the world. Wherefore turn your steps to the church and bid the brethren to commend in their prayers my going hence to God, and to remember to prepare for their own departure, the hour of which is yet uncertain, by watching and by praying and by good works.



*March 7***S. THOMAS AQUINAS****Daily Prayer**

GRANT me, I beseech Thee, O merciful God, prudently to study, rightly to understand, and perfectly to fulfil that which is pleasing to Thee, to the praise and glory of Thy Name.

Thou, O Christ, art the King of Glory ;
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.

*March 7***S. PERPETUA, M.**

GRANT, O Lord, that we may stand fast in our faith, and that we may love one another, and that we may not be troubled by our passions.

O Lord, let our confession of Thee be not without fruit, that we may be deemed worthy to be numbered in Thy precious flock, and not to be separated from the holy army of Thy Martyrs. *Amen.*



March 12

S. GREGORY THE GREAT, B.C.

I



GOD, Whose Nature and Property is ever to have mercy and to forgive, receive our humble petitions; and though we be tied and bound with the chain of our sins, yet let the pitifulness of Thy great mercy loose us; for the honour of Jesus Christ, our Mediator, and Advocate. *Amen.*



II

PREVENT us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favour, and further us with Thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy Holy Name, and finally by Thy mercy obtain everlasting Life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



March 17

PRAYER OF S. PATRICK
(Bishop of Ireland)

I PRAY God that He may grant me perseverance and that he may deem me worthy to show myself a faithful witness unto Him, till I go hence for the sake of my God. And if I have ever done, in imitation of Him, any good thing, for the sake of my God whom I love, I beseech Him to grant me that, in common with those who have believed on Him and been made prisoners for His Name's sake, I may shed my blood for Him, even though my body lack burial, and be grievously cut in pieces, and thrown to the birds and beasts of prey for them to devour it.

For most certainly I think, if this trouble me, that in losing my life I have gained my soul ; for without doubt we shall rise on that day in the brightness of the sun, that is, in the glory of Jesus Christ we shall all be redeemed as sons of God, and co-heirs with Christ, and creatures made in His very image, since from Him and through Him, and in Him, are all things, and to Him be the glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*



*March 18***S. CYRIL, B.****I**

GOD of love, O giver of concord, who hast given one counsel for our profit, with a new commandment, through Thine only begotten Son, that we should love one another, even as Thou didst love us, the unworthy and the wandering, and gavest Thy beloved Son for our life and salvation ; we pray Thee, Lord, give to us Thy servants, in all time of our life on the earth (but especially and pre-eminently now), a mind forgetful of past ill-will, a pure conscience and sincere thoughts, and a heart to love our brethren.

**II**

BE mindful, O Lord, of the peace of Thy one holy catholic and apostolic church, which is spread over the face of the whole earth. Be mindful, O Lord, of all Thy people, the flocks of Thy fold. Send down from Heaven unto our hearts that peace which the world cannot give, but graciously bestow upon us, also, the peace of this world. Guide in peace the king, the armies, the magistrates and councillors, the people, the neighbourhood, our coming in and

our going out. O King of Peace, grant us Thy peace, for Thou hast given us all things. Be our God, for we know none besides Thee. We call upon Thy Holy Name. Grant unto our souls, through Thy holy spirit, the life of righteousness, that the death of sin may not prevail against Thy servants or have dominion over any of Thy people. *Amen.*



March 21

S. BENEDICT (Abbot)

Prayer from the Preface to his Monastic Rule

MAY God grant that never straying from the instruction of the Master, and persevering in His doctrine until death, we may share by patience in the sufferings of Christ, and be found worthy to share together His kingdom.



March 22

S. BASIL, P.M.

CHRIST is my light, and Jesus is my hope, a calm port in tempest. I give Thee thanks, Lord God of my fathers, because Thou hast saved my soul from the abyss. Keep Thy

Name inviolate in me, and make me an heir of eternal rest, for the promise made unto my fathers by the great High-priest, Jesus Christ our Lord ; through whom I pray Thee receive my spirit into peace, persevering in my confession ; for Thou art merciful and long-suffering and full of compassion ; who livest and reignest for ever and ever. *Amen.*



March 25

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Collect I

WE beseech Thee, O Lord, pour Thy grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of Thy Son Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by His cross and passion we may be brought into the glory of His resurrection, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Collect II

O ETERNAL God, who didst manifest to Thy humble handmaid Mary the incarnation of Thy blessed Son by the message of an angel, and didst so overshadow her with Thy glorious

power, that her virgin womb immediately conceived the word, and vested Thine eternal Son with our humanity ; grant me, I humbly beseech Thee, with devout admiration to celebrate the memory of this highest mystery, and to give all thanks and praise to our great Redeemer, who took human nature upon Him that we might be partakers of the divine nature, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His father, to Him be honour and glory, dominion and power, now and for ever. *Amen.*



Prayer

BEHOLD the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to Thy word.

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. *Luke i.*



EASTER WEEK

The Prayers of Our Lord Jesus Christ for
His Apostles and other Believers



ATHER, the hour is come, glorify Thy Son that Thy Son also may glorify Thee ; as Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He shall give eternal life to as many

as Thou hast given Him. And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent. I have glorified Thee on the earth ; I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Thou me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was. I have manifested Thy name unto the men which Thou gavest me out of the world ; Thine they were and Thou gavest them me ; and they have kept Thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever Thou hast given me are of Thee. For I have given unto them the words which Thou gavest me ; and they have received them and have known surely that I come out from Thee, and they have believed that Thou didst send me. I pray for them ; I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given me ; for they are Thine. And all mine are Thine and Thine are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep through Thine own Name those whom Thou hast given me, that they may be one as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Thy Name ; those that Thou gavest me I have kept and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled.

And now come I to Thee ; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my

joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Thy word ; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Thy truth : Thy word is truth. As Thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for those also which shall believe on me, through their word. That they all might be one ; as Thou, Father, art in me and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me. And the glory which Thou gavest me, I have given them ; that they may be one even as we are one ; I in them and Thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one and that the world may know that Thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved me. Father, I ask that they also, whom Thou hast given me, be with me where I am ; that they may behold my glory, which Thou hast given me ; for Thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee, but I have known Thee, and these have known that Thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them Thy Name and will declare it ; that the love

wherewith Thou hast loved me may be in them
and I in them.



In the Garden of Gethsemane

O MY Father, if it be possible, let this cup
pass from me ; nevertheless, not as I will but as
Thou wilt. O my Father, if this cup may not
pass away from me, except I drink it, Thy will
be done.



From the Cross

FATHER, forgive them, for they know not what
they do.



April 3

THE DYING PRAYER OF S. RICHARD, Bishop of Chichester

LORD JESU CHRIST, I thank Thee for
all the blessings Thou hast given me,
and for all the sufferings and shame Thou
didst endure for me, on which account that
pitiable cry of sorrow was Thine : “ Behold and
see, if there was any sorrow like unto My

sorrow !” Thou knowest, Lord, how willing I should be to bear insult, and pain, and death for Thee ; therefore have mercy on me, for to Thee do I commend my spirit. *Amen.*



April 4

S. AMBROSE, B.

I



LORD, my Saviour, in whose power it is to remit sins, I beseech Thee say unto me, “ Loose thee from thy chains, come out of the bonds of thy sins ” ; and when Thou sayest it, loose those cords of my errors wherewith I am entangled and bound ; for, though I am the most wicked of all men, and to be abhorred by reason of my continuance in sins, yet when thou commandest, I shall be free from them. *Amen.*



II

LORD Jesus Christ, who didst stretch out Thine hands on the Cross, and redeem us by Thy Blood, forgive me, a sinner, for none of my thoughts are hid from Thee. Pardon I ask, pardon I hope for, pardon I trust to have. Thou who art pitiful and merciful, spare and forgive me.

April 4

De Adventu Domini

VENI, Redemptor gentium,
Ostende partum Virginis ;
Miretur omne sæculum ;
Talis decet partus Deum.

Non ex virili semine,
Sed mystico spiramine,
Verbum Dei factum est caro,
Fructusque ventris floruit.

Alvus tumescit Virginis,
Clastrum pudoris permanet,
Vexilla virtutum micant,
Versatur in templo Deus.

Procedit e thalamo suo,
Pudoris aulâ regiâ,
Geminæ Gigas substantiæ,
Alacris ut currat viam.

Egressus ejus a Patre,
Regressus ejus ad Patrem,
Excursus usque ad inferos,
Recursus ad sedem Dei.

Æqualis æterno Patri,
Carnis tropæo cingere,
Infirma nostri corporis
Virtute firmans perpeti.

Præsepe jam fulget tuum,
Lumenque nox spirat novum,
Quod nulla nox interpolet,
Fideque jugi luceat.



April II

S. LEO THE GREAT

I

LORD, our God, great, eternal, wonderful in glory, who keepest covenant and promises for those that love Thee with their whole heart ; who art the life of all, the help of those who flee unto Thee ; the hope of those who cry unto Thee ; cleanse us from our sins, secret and open, and from every thought displeasing to Thy goodness—cleanse our bodies and souls, our hearts and consciences, that with a pure heart and a clean soul, with perfect love and calm hope, we may venture confidently and fearlessly to pray unto Thee.*



II

ALMIGHTY God, who showest to them that be in error the light of Thy truth, to the intent

* Leonine Sacramentary (Bright).

that they may return into the way (of righteousness) ; grant unto all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may eschew those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same ; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



III

GRANT, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by Thy governance, that Thy Church may joyfully serve Thee in all godly quietness ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



April 19

S. ALPHEGE, Abp. (Canterbury) M.

Prayer whilst being Stoned to Death



LORD JESUS, 'only begotten Son of the most High God, who didst come into this world through the womb of the immaculate Virgin, that Thou mightest save sinners, receive me now into Thine eternal peace and have mercy on these my destroyers.

O Thou, the good, the only Shepherd,

watch over, I beseech Thee, the sons of the Church, which with my dying breath I commend to Thy grace.



April 21

S. ANSELM, Archbishop of Canterbury

I



GOD whose pity is everlasting and whose goodness infinite ; O God the founder and restorer of all mankind, who cleansest the hearts of those who acknowledge their fault to Thee, and absolvest from the bondage of all iniquity those who confess their sins before the presence of Thy divine mercy ; with groans and supplications, I beseech Thee of Thy goodness that according to the magnitude of Thy compassion Thou wilt grant me to make before Thee a full confession of all the iniquities whereof my conscience accuseth me, and that Thou will inspire me with a true and worthy repentance for all the wickedness which from time to time I have committed, in vile thoughts, in evil consent, in unholy purpose, in desire and sensual delight, in idle words, in sinful deeds, in seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling or touching. For Thou, being merciful to work out the salvation of my soul, hast given to me each sense suited for its human purpose. But I, being the most miserable sinner, have despised Thee, the lover

of eternal salvation, and have consented unto him who is preparing for me everlasting fire ; I have slipped in the paths of sin, I have utterly fallen in the ways of iniquity, I have erred in the use of all my senses, and laid myself open to unholy works. In recounting these things I do not revile, O Lord, Thy creature in me, but, O most merciful God, I beg a healing salve from Thee, for I perceive that my offence is beyond measure, and I know that, as the stars of heaven and the sands of the sea are innumerable, so are my sins without number. But do Thou, who desirest not the death of a sinner, turn again and look on me, and have mercy upon Thy miserable servant.



II

PARDON, O Lord ; pardon, O loving Lord, pardon and pity me ; spare mine ignorance, and my great imperfection. Condemn me not as presumptuous because I, Thy servant, venture—and would that I were even a good servant, and not rather an useless and bad, yea on that ground a very bad one—because I venture without contrition of heart and fountain of tears, without due reverence and trembling, to praise, and bless, and adore Thee—our almighty and terrible God. For if angels, when they adore and praise Thee, tremble, being filled with wondrous exaltation,

why do not I, sinner as I am, when I stand before Thee and sing Thy praise, and offer Thee sacrifice, quiver in my heart, grow pale in countenance, tremble in my lips, shudder in my whole body, and so with gushing tears weep before Thee unceasingly? I will, but I avail not; for what I desire, that I cannot do. Hence, then, am I exceedingly amazed at myself, while with the eyes of faith I gaze upon Thee who art but too terrible.

But who can do this without the help of Thy grace? For our whole salvation is Thy great mercy. Ah! wretched me, how hath my soul been made thus insensate, that it is not frightened with exceeding fear, while it standeth before God and singeth to Him its praises? Ah! wretched me, how hath my soul grown so hard, that mine eyes pour not down streams of tears unceasingly; while the servant speaketh before his Lord, man with God, the creature with the creator, he who was made with clay with Him who made all things of nothing? Behold! O Lord, I set myself before Thee and what in my secret heart I perceive of myself, from Thy fatherly ears I keep not back. Thou who art rich in mercy and bounteous in gifts, give Thou me of Thy good things, that with them I may serve Thee; for not from aught else can we serve Thee or please Thee, save from Thy gift. Pierce, I beseech Thee, my flesh with Thy fear, let my heart rejoice to fear Thy name. O that my sinful soul could so fear Thee, as did

that holy man who said "Destruction from God was a terror to me."

O thou giver of all good things, give me in the midst of Thy praises the fount of tears, together with purity of heart and rejoicing of mind; that perfectly loving Thee and worthily praising Thee, with the very palate of my heart I may feel and taste and see how sweet and pleasant Thou art, O Lord, as it is written, "O taste and see how gracious the Lord is, blessed is the man that trusteth in Him." *



III

O GOD most loving, God merciful and pitiful, be Thou merciful to our sins and whatsoever sins we have committed, whether instigated by the author of death or by our own free will, reserve not Thou to Thy judgment to be searched into; but do Thou grant us Thy grace, and let us rejoice in Thy pardon alone.

Have mercy, O Lord, upon us who cry unto Thee. Let the voice of faith weeping to Thee move Thy love; and let that mercy, in which alone we hope, not reckon what we have done amiss, while it looketh upon what we ask. And since great is our misery, that we are guilty,

* This and the following prayers of S. Anselm translated by Pusey.

great is Thy pity that we are miserable. Suppliant for Thy help, we set before Thee both the evils of our crime and our griefs, and await through prayer to Thee the mercy which by sinning we drove away from us. Grant then, O most loving Father, that what we have done we may bewail; and in Thy love deign to keep us through all the periods of day and night free from all attacks of evil. Grant to us, out of Thy indulgence, to receive what we ask, since Thou seest that we have no confidence in our own righteousness. Lift us up, O Lord our God, and lighten us in Thy mercy, that in the communion of salvation and the joy of charity, while we ourselves desire to be saved by Thy gift, we may rejoice moreover in the faith and peace of all nations.



IV

I KNOW, O Lord, Jesus Christ, I know and confess that I am not worthy that Thou shouldest love me; but surely Thou art not unworthy that I should love Thee. I am indeed unworthy to serve Thee; but Thou art not unworthy of the service of Thy creature. Make me, therefore, O Lord, in what way Thou wilt, to cease from sin, that so I may be able to serve Thee as I ought. Vouchsafe by Thy most pitiful mercy

so to keep, rule, and end my life, that I may sleep in peace and may rest in Thee. Grant me, O Lord, that in the end my soul may receive sleep with rest, rest with full satiety, satiety with eternity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



V

For his Friends

O SWEET and kind Lord Jesus Christ, who didst show forth love than which no man hath greater, and to which no man can have equal; who owedst nothing to death and yet didst lay down Thy loving soul for Thy servants and sinners; and didst pray for Thy very murderers, that Thou mightest make them Thy brethren and righteous, and reconcile them to Thy merciful Father and to Thyself, Thou, Lord, who showedest so great love to Thine enemies, Thou Thyself didst enjoin love to Thy friends. O good Lord, with what affection shall I think on Thine inestimable love? What shall I pay unto Thee for Thine immeasurable benefit? For the sweetness of Thy kindness transcendeth every affection; the greatness of Thy benefit surpasseth all return. What return then shall I make to my Creator and Re-Creator? What shall I repay to my Pityer and Redeemer?

“Lord Thou art my God, my goods are nothing unto Thee,” for “the earth is Thine and the fulness thereof.” What then shall I, poor and a beggar, I a worm and ashes, what shall I repay to my God, save that from my heart I obey His command? and Thy command is that “we love one another.” O good Man, good God, good Lord, good Friend, good All, whatsoever Thou art, this Thy command, Thine humble and despicable servant desireth to obey. Thou knowest, Lord, that the affection which Thou commandest, I love. The love I cherish, the charity I desire. This I beg: this I seek: for this, this Thy poor beggar, knocketh and crieth at the door of Thy mercy. And in so far as I have already received the sweet alms of Thine undeserved bounty, loving every man in Thee and for Thee, though not so much as I ought, nor so much as I long, for all I implore Thy clemency.

There are many, however, for whom, as Thy love has more specially and familiarly impressed affection for them on my heart, so I more ardently desire good, and more devoutly wish to pray for them. Thy servant, O loving Lord, longeth, yea longeth, to pray to Thee for his friends, but Thy culprit is called back therefrom by his sins. For I, who of myself cannot obtain pardon for myself, with what face do I presume to ask for Thy grace for others? And I, who anxiously seek intercessors for myself, with what confidence do I intercede for others? What

shall I do, O Lord my God, what shall I do? Thou biddest me pray for them, and mine affection longeth to pray; but while my conscience crieth out to me to be anxious about mine own sins, I tremble to speak in behalf of others. Shall I then forego what Thou biddest, because I have done what Thou forbiddest? Nay, rather because I have presumed to do what was forbidden, I will embrace what is commanded; if perchance obedience may heal presumption, if perchance charity cover the multitude of my sins.

I pray Thee, then, O good and loving Lord, for those who love me for Thee, and whom I love in Thee; and for those most devoutly, whose love for me and my care for them Thou knowest to be most sincere. And this I do not, O my Lord, as a righteous man, secure as to mine own sins; but with what charity I may, anxious about the sins of others. Love Thou them, then, O thou fountain of love, who commandest and givest to me to love them. And if my prayer avail not to profit them, because it is offered to Thee by a sinner, let it avail for them, because it is made at Thy command. For Thine own sake then, Thou author and giver of charity, for Thy sake, not for mine, love Thou them, and make them love Thee with all their heart, with all their mind, with all their soul; that those things alone which are pleasing to Thee and expedient for them, they may will and speak and do. Too cold, O my Lord, too cold

is my prayer, because too little fervent is my charity. But Thou that art rich in mercy, measure not Thou to them Thy goodness by the dulness of my devotion ; but as Thy kindness passeth all human charity, so let Thine hearing transcend the affection of my supplication. Do Thou to them and with them what is expedient for them, according to Thy word ; that they may always and everywhere be so ruled and protected, that they may attain to a glorious and everlasting security through Thee, who livest and reignest, world without end. *Amen.*



April 25

S. MARK, A.E.M.

Collect I



ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast instructed Thy Holy Church with the Heavenly doctrine of Thy Evangelist, Saint Mark ; give us grace, that, being not like children carried away with every blast of vain doctrine, we may be established in the truth of Thy holy Gospel ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



From the (so-called) Liturgy of S. Mark

O GOD of Light, Father of Life, Author of Grace, Creator of worlds, Founder of knowledge, Giver of wisdom, Treasure of Holiness, Teacher of pure prayers, Benefactor of our souls, who givest to the fainthearted, who put their trust in Thee, those things into which the Angels desire to look ; O sovereign Lord, who hast brought us up from the depths of darkness to light, who hast given us life from death, who hast graciously bestowed upon us freedom from slavery, who has scattered the darkness of sin within us, do Thou now also, through the visitation of Thy Holy Spirit, enlighten the eyes of our understanding and sanctify us wholly, in body, soul, and spirit, and pardon all our sins in Thine abundant and unsearchable goodness, through the grace, mercy, and love of Thine only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Visit, O Lord, and heal those who are sick, according to Thy pity and compassion ; turn from them and from us all sickness and diseases ; restore them to, and confirm them in, their strength ; raise up those who have lingered under long and tedious indispositions ; succour those who are vexed with unclean spirits. Relieve those who are in any way afflicted ; deliver them all, for Thou art our God, who loosest those who are in bonds, and raisest up those who

are oppressed ; the Hope of the hopeless, the Helper of the helpless, the Lifter of those who are fallen, the Haven of those who are shipwrecked, the Avenger of those who are injured. Give Thy pity, pardon, and refreshment to every Christian soul, whether in affliction or in error. And, O Lord, Thou physician of soul and body, heal all our infirmities, both of soul and body. O Thou who art the overseer of all flesh, watch over us and heal us by Thy saving health. Be a guide at all times and in all places to our brethren who are travelling or about to travel whether by land or by water, whatever way they pursue their journey, bring them all to a quiet and safe port. Be with them on their voyages and on their road, and restore them to their friends, and let them receive each other in joy and health. Preserve us also, O Lord, in our pilgrimage through this life, from hurt and danger. Send rain out of Thy treasures upon those places which stand in need of it ; renew and make glad the face of the earth by its descent, that bringing forth it may rejoice in the drops thereof. Raise the waters of the rivers to their just height, renew and make glad the face of the earth by the ascent of them, water its furrows and increase its produce. Bless, O Lord, the fruits of the earth, and preserve them incorrupt for our use, that we may sow and reap from them. Bless, also, O Lord, and crown the year with the riches of Thy goodness, for the sake of the poor, the widow, the fatherless, and

the stranger. For the sake of all of us who put our trust in Thee, and call upon Thy Holy Name ; for the eyes of all await upon Thee, and Thou givest them meat in due season. O Thou that givest food to all flesh, fill our hearts with joy and gladness ; give us always what is sufficient for the relief of our necessities, that we may abound in every good work in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



May 1

SS. PHILIP and JAMES, A.A., M.M.

Collect I



ALMIGHTY GOD, whom truly to know is everlasting life ; grant us perfectly to know Thy Son Jesus Christ to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life ; that following the steps of Thy holy apostles, Saint Philip and Saint James, we may steadfastly walk in the way that leadeth to eternal life ; through the same Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Collect II

O GOD, by whose grace the blessed Apostles Philip and James watered with their blood the

heavenly seed which they had sown over the world, teach me, by their examples, constancy in suffering for the truth ; and let me not shrink in that warfare which has been so triumphantly undergone by men of like infirmities with myself ; arm me with resolution to confess Thee before men as they did, that neither profit may engage, nor pleasure soften me into any sinful compliance, nor any persecutions make me stagger or fall from my steadfastness in the way which leadeth to eternal life. Grant this, O Lord, through the merits of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



May 2

S. ATHANASIUS, B.



THOU FATHER, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, who hast declared unto us the unity of the Deity, and hast revealed the undivided glory of the only ever-blessed Divinity, and demonstrated the perfect eternity of Thy Trinity ; grant me, I beseech Thee, faith and obedience in this life, and glory in the life to come, by and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*



*May 4***S. MONNICA Matron****Prayer of S. Augustine for his Mother**

NOW, with a heart cured of that wound, wherein it might seem blameworthy for an earthly feeling, I pour out unto Thee, our God, in behalf of that Thy handmaid, a far different kind of tears, flowing from a spirit shaken by the thoughts of the dangers of every soul that dieth in Adam. And although she, having been quickened in Christ, even before her release from the flesh, had lived to the praise of Thy Name, for her faith and conversation; yet dare I not say that, from what time Thou regeneratedst her by baptism, no word issued from her mouth against Thy commandment. Thy Son, the Truth, hath said, "Whosoever shall say unto his brother, thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." And woe be even unto the commendable life of men if, laying aside mercy, Thou shouldest examine it. But because Thou art not extreme in inquiring after sins, we confidently hope to find some place with Thee. But whosoever reckons up his real merits to Thee, what reckons he up to Thee but Thine own gifts? O that men would know themselves to be men, and that he that glorieth would glory in the Lord.

I therefore, O my praise and my life, God of

my heart, laying aside for awhile her good deeds, for which I give thanks to Thee with joy, do now beseech Thee for the sins of my mother. Hearken unto me, I beseech Thee, by the Medicine of our wounds, who hung upon the tree, and now, sitting at Thy right hand, maketh intercession to Thee for us. I know that she dealt mercifully, and from her heart forgave her debtors their debts : do Thou also forgive her debts, whatever she may have contracted in so many years since the water of salvation.

Forgive her, Lord, forgive, I beseech Thee ; enter not into judgment with her. Let Thy mercy be exalted above Thy justice, since Thy words are true, and Thou hast promised mercy unto the merciful ; which Thou gavest them to be, who wilt have mercy on whom Thou wilt have mercy ; and wilt have compassion on whom Thou hast had compassion.

And I believe Thou hast already done what I ask ; but accept, O Lord, the free-will offerings of my mouth. For she, the day of her dissolution now at hand, took no thought to have her body sumptuously bound up or embalmed with spices ; nor desired she a choice monument or to be buried in her own land. These things she enjoined us not, but desired only to have her name commemorated at Thy altar, which she had served without intermission of one day ; whence she knew that holy sacrifice to be dispensed, by which the handwriting that was against us is blotted out, through which the

enemy was triumphed over, who, summing up our offences and seeking what to lay to our charge, found nothing in Him in whom we conquer. Who shall restore to Him the innocent blood? Who repay Him the price where-with He bought us, and so take us from Him? Unto the Sacrament of which our ransom, Thy handmaid bound her soul by the bond of faith. Let none sever her from Thy protection, let neither the lion nor the dragon interpose himself by force or fraud. For she will not answer that she owes nothing, lest she be convicted and seized by the crafty accuser; but she will answer that her sins are forgiven her by Him, to whom none can repay that price, which He, who owed nothing, paid for us.

May she rest then in peace with the husband, before and after whom she had never any; whom she obeyed, with patience bringing forth fruit unto Thee, that she might win him also unto Thee. And inspire, O Lord my God, inspire Thy servants my brethren, Thy sons my masters, whom with voice and heart and pen I serve, that so many as shall read these confessions may at Thy altar remember Monnica thy handmaid, with Patricius her sometime husband, by whose bodies Thou broughtest me into life, how, I know not. May they with devout affection remember my parents in this transitory light, my brethren under Thee our Father, in our Catholic Mother, and my fellow citizens in that eternal Jerusalem which Thy pilgrim people

sigheth after from their Exodus, even unto their return thither. That so, my mother's last request of me, may through my confessions, more than through my prayers, be, through the prayers of many, more abundantly fulfilled to her.*



May 6

S. JOHN DAMASCENE, M.K.C.

I STAND before the doors of Thy temple, O God, and yet I refrain not from presumptuous thoughts. But Thou, O Lord Christ, who didst justify the publican, pity the Canaanitish woman, and didst open the gates of paradise to the thief, open Thou for me the bowels of Thy compassion, and receive me as I come to Thee and touch Thee, even as the woman with the bloody flux took hold of the hem of Thy garment and was healed, and the harlot touched Thine immaculate feet, and gained the remission of her sins.

May I, a most miserable sinner who dared to receive Thy whole body, may I not be utterly consumed with fire, but do Thou receive me as Thou didst receive them ; and lighten the darkness of my soul, but consume with fire my bonds of sin, through the might of God the Father, and God the Holy Ghost, with whom, and

* The Confessions of St. Augustine.

through whom, Thou art for ever blessed and glorified. *Amen.*



May 9

S. GREGORY NAZIANZEN, B.D.

Morning Prayer

IN the morning I stretch forth my hands in supplication to my God, and vow that I will neither do nor approve any wicked thing, but that, as far as in me lies, I will consecrate this day to Thee, O Lord, by my remaining calm and steadfast, unshaken by the storms of passion. For, if I be evil, my years and the Table of the Lord at which I serve put me to shame. Behold, this is my desire ; O Lord, my Christ, do Thou fulfil it.* *Amen.*



Evening Prayer

I WAS false to Thee, O Thou Word who art the Truth, when I consecrated the day to Thee, for the night has come and found me not free from stain, not full of light. I prayed indeed for purity and I thought that I should be pure, but behold my feet have stumbled ; for the dark-

* The original is in Greek verse.

ness was about me, which is the enemy of salvation. Shine again upon me, O Christ, and show me the light of thy countenance, Thou who art the Light.* *Amen.*



Prayer before setting out on a Journey

O LORD Christ, who givest all good things to them that love Thee, without whom we cannot set one foot before another, trusting in Thee, O Thou who art the Way, the Truth, and the Life, I start on this journey. Do Thou bring me back again, O Lord, to my humble home, that by day and night I may be free to praise and bless Thee, O Lord my Saviour.* *Amen.*



May 19

S. DUNSTAN (Archbishop)

Anthem



Q REX gentium dominator omnium, propter sedem majestatis tuæ da nobis indulgentiam, Rex Christe, peccatorum, Alleluia!

* Translated from the Greek verse of the original.

Dying Words

GLORY be to Thee, Almighty Father, who hast given to them that fear Thee the heavenly bread of life, that we may be mindful of the marvels which Thou hast wrought upon the earth, by sending us Thy only begotten Son, very man, born of a pure virgin. We give thanks, as is most justly due, to Thee, O Holy Father, who didst create us ere yet we were, and whilst we were yet sinners didst make us partakers of Thy heavenly grace, through the same Thy Son, our Lord and God, who with Thee and the Holy Ghost maketh, ordereth, and ruleth all things for ever and ever, world without end. *Amen.*



May 26

S. AUGUSTINE, Archbishop (Canterbury)

The Prayer and Praise of S. Gregory on
hearing of the success of S. Augustine's
Missionary Journey to Britain

THEE, O Lord, the author of all salvation,
Thee wonderful and glorious in Thy
saints, and in Thy loving mercy, Thee
we laud and magnify in all things with our
humble praise. For behold, through Thy lowly
servant Augustine the ocean that once was wild

and rough is now calm and smooth beneath the feet of the saints, and the Hebrew Alleluia now begins to resound on the barbarous tongue of Britain. Receive, O Thou Sower of Benefits, receive the fruits of the boundless grace which Thou hast planted in his fruitful breast ; receive the newcomer, Thy servant, and all his eloquent brethren, with whom he has left home and country, friends and relations, and denied himself, and taken up his cross and followed Thee. Thou art mighty to make of him, too, a great nation, as Thou didst of the patriarch Thy servant Abraham, in the old time before us.

But it is ever Thy nature and property, O Lord, to lighten the danger and difficulties of Thy saints, and to change them into the infinite gain of heavenly joy.



May 27

PRAYER OF THE VENERABLE BEDE P.



GLORIOUS KING, Lord of all power, who triumphing this day didst ascend above the heavens, leave us not orphans, but send down on us, from the Father, the spirit of truth which Thou hast promised. Hallelujah !



June 5

S. BONIFACE, B.M.

LET us pray the gracious defender of our life, the only sure refuge of those in trouble, that His right hand may keep us safe amidst these dens of wolves, and that He may guard us from harm, so that the footsteps of apostates walking in darkness may not be found, where should be the beautiful feet of those who carry the peaceful light of the gospel, but that the most gracious Father and God may help us to gird up our loins, with bright candles in our hands, and that he may enlighten the hearts of the heathen to gaze at the glorious gospel of Christ. *Amen.*



June 9

S. COLUMBA, Abb.

His Last Charge

COMMEND to you, my children, these my last words, that you preserve true charity and peace among yourselves. If you observe this precept, according to the example of the saints, God the Comforter of the good will help you, and being with Him, I shall intercede for you. He will afford you not only all you want in this life, but likewise he will

bestow upon you those joys of Eternity, which are prepared for them that keep His Commandments.



June 10

S. MARGARET, Q.



PRAISE and thank Thee, O Lord God Almighty, that Thou hast seen fit to give me to bear such pain and trouble in these the last hours of my life, that, bearing them, I may be purified from any stain of sin, as is my trust through Jesus Christ my Saviour.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who according to the Will of the Father and the Holy Ghost, hast by Thy death given life to this world, deliver me from all evil. *Amen.*



June 11

S. BARNABAS, A.M.

Collect I



LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, who didst endue Thy holy apostle Barnabas with singular gifts of the Holy Ghost ; leave us not, we beseech Thee, destitute of Thy manifold gifts, nor yet of grace to use them always to Thy honour and glory ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect II

O LORD God Almighty, who hast built Thy church upon the foundation of the Apostles, under Christ the head corner-stone, and to this end didst endue Thy holy apostle St. Barnabas with singular gifts of the Holy Ghost ; leave me not destitute, I humbly beseech Thee, of Thy manifold gifts and talents, nor yet of grace to make a right use of them always without any sordid self-ends, to Thy honour and glory ; that, making a due improvement of all those gifts Thou graciously entrustest me with, I may be able to give a good account of my stewardship when the great Judge shall appear, the Lord Jesus Christ, who reigneth with Thee and the Eternal Spirit, one God, blessed for ever.
Amen.

*June 14*

S. BASIL THE GREAT

I

LORD OUR GOD, great, eternal, wonderful in glory, who keepest covenant and promises for those that love Thee with their whole heart ; who art the life of all, the help of those that flee unto Thee, the hope of those who cry unto Thee ; cleanse us from our

sins, secret and open, and from every thought displeasing to Thy goodness, cleanse our bodies and souls, our hearts and consciences, that with a pure heart and a clear soul, with perfect love and calm hope, we may venture confidently and fearlessly to pray unto Thee.



II

ACCEPT, O God, the sincere repentance of Thy servants for the sake of Thy Son, who takes away the sins of the world ; accept it for an enlightening of our understandings and an atonement for our sins ; for Thou wilt not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, for Thou art the Lord, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and of great pity and truth, taking away our transgressions, our iniquities and our sins. And if we have offended Thee, either in word or deed, remit pardon and forgive us, according to Thy goodness and lovingkindness. For if Thou art extreme to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who may abide it? But with Thee is gracious redemption, for Thou art the propitiation of our sins, the light and saviour of our souls. Deliver me and all Thy people, O God, from all manner of sin, from apostasy and blasphemy, from evil speaking and cursing, from magic and witchcraft, from idolatry and perjury, from

excommunication and schism, from the flying arrows and from the groans of the just and unjust ; from all fellowship with heretics or heathens. Give us, O Lord, the knowledge, the will and the courage to fly from our great adversary, and to do that which is well-pleasing unto Thee. Write our name with those of all Thy saints in the kingdom of Heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom be all glory and honour, world without end.
Amen.



The Prayer of S. Basil at the Breaking of the Bread

O OUR God, the God of salvation, teach us worthily to return our thanks to Thee for all benefits which Thou hast at any time conferred and dost still continue to confer upon us. Purge us from all filthiness of flesh and spirit and teach us so to perfect holiness in Thy fear, that we receiving there Thy holy mysteries with the testimony of a good conscience, may be partakers of the most holy body and blood of Thy Christ ; and that receiving them worthily we may have Christ dwelling in our hearts, and may become the temple of Thy holy spirit. But O our God, make us not guilty, either in soul or body, of this tremendous and heavenly sacrament by our unworthy receiving of it ; but grant that to the

end of our lives we may worthily receive these means of sanctification for a passport to eternal life, and an acceptable plea at the dreadful tribunal of Thy Christ ; that we, with all Thy saints, who have pleased Thee from the beginning of the world, may be partakers of those good things which Thou hast prepared for them who love Thee, and grant, O Lord, that we may boldly and without blame presume to call upon Thee, our heavenly God and Father, for Jesus Christ His sake.* *Amen.*



June 24

NATIVITY OF S. JOHN BAPTIST

Collect I



ALMIGHTY GOD, by whose providence Thy servant John Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of Thy Son our Saviour, by preaching of repentance ; make us so to follow his doctrine and holy life, that we may truly repent according to his preaching ; and after his example constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

* From the Liturgy of S. Basil.

June 24

Collect II

ALMIGHTY God, by whose providence John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way to Thy Son, our Saviour, by preaching repentance; grant that I may faithfully endeavour to follow his doctrine and holy life, and copy from him those excellent lessons of retirement and mortification, humility and self-denial, zeal for justice, and constancy in defending the truth, courage to rebuke vice, and patience in suffering for righteousness' sake. Grant this, O Lord, for Jesus Christ His sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

*June 24*

Prayer

LORD, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. *Luke xi. 1.*

*June 29*

S. PETER, A.M.

Collect I



ALMIGHTY God, who by Thy Son Jesus Christ didst give to Thy Apostle Saint Peter many excellent gifts, and commandedst him earnestly to feed Thy flock;

Make, we beseech Thee, all Bishops and Pastors diligently to preach Thy Holy Word, and the people obediently to follow the same, that they may receive the crown of everlasting glory ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



June 29

Collect II

O GOD, who for the trial of our faith and obedience sufferest us to be surrounded with variety of temptations, the flesh endeavouring to ruin us by its false allurements, the devil by his watchfulness and subtlety, and the world by its pomps and vanities ; how shall I, a weak and frail creature, stand fast, when Thy great Apostle Peter failed in the day of trial ! My help standeth in the Name of the Lord, in the powerful intercession of the Blessed Jesus, and in the comfortable assistance of the Holy Ghost. Make me, O blessed Trinity, like the Apostle of this day, as eminent and remarkable for my repentance and future zeal in Thy service, as for my past heinous transgressions ; that being steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, I may, through Thy mercy, be received into Thine everlasting kingdom, there with the glorious company of Prophets and Apostles, the noble army of Martyrs, and all the shining host of Heaven, to sing praise unto Him who sitteth

upon the throne, who liveth for ever and ever.
Amen.



June 29

Words of S. Peter from the Cross



THE profound and ineffable mystery of the Cross ! O inseparable bond of Grace !

This is that wood of Life on which Jesus Christ the Lord was exalted and drew all things unto Him : this is that wood of Life on which the body of the Lord Our Saviour was crucified, but whereon Death was conquered and the whole world freed from the chains of everlasting Death ! O the incomparable grace and Love of the Cross !

Therefore to Thee, O Lord Jesu, Son of the Living God, I give thanks, not only with my voice and heart, but also with my spirit, whereby I love Thee, I address Thee, I call upon Thee, I cling to Thee, I understand Thee, I behold Thee. Thou art to me all things, and in all things : Thou art everything to me : for me there is nothing but Thou only, Who art God the Good and Very Son of God, to Whom with the Eternal Father and Holy Ghost is honour and Glory, for ever and ever, world without end.*
Amen.

* Acta Petri.

LORD save me ! *Matt. xiv. 29.*



THOU art the Christ, the Son of the Living God. *Matt. xvi. 16.*

Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for you.

The God of all grace, who hath called us unto His Eternal Glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

To Him be Glory and Dominion. *Amen.*
Peter i. 1.



July 20

S. MARGARET, V.M.

I



LORD JESUS CHRIST, life and virtue of the Saints, comforter of the sorrowful, Saviour of the afflicted, who never failest those who put their trust in Thee, so strengthen

me, Thy little child, that if the might of wicked men come and seize me and lacerate my body with all manner of cruel torments, Thou suffer not Thy servant, O Lord, to faint through dread of punishment, lest I relinquish my faith in Thy grace, and through fear deny Thy holy name. For Thou, O Lord, art the maker of our souls and bodies ; Thou knowest the frailty of our nature. Remember, I beseech Thee, that we are but dust and clay ; for lo ! my father and my mother, whose duty it surely was to exhort me to obey Thy commandments, strive to lead me astray, because I do not worship false gods. But since, O Lord, my most faithful Saviour, I believe that Thou deignest to take me to Thyself, therefore I do not fear what man may do to me.



II

O LORD God, ruler of the heavens and of the earth, creator of things visible and invisible, giver of eternal life, and consoler of the sorrowful, make me to stand firm in the confession of Thy Name, that as with Thine aid I have begun the good fight, so with Thine aid I may be deemed worthy to gain the victory, lest the adversary spitefully mock at me, saying, "Where is now her God, in whom she trusted ?"

But let the angel of Thy light come and

restore to me the light which the darkness of my cell has taken from me ; and let the right hand of Thy majesty scatter the phantom hosts of the ancient enemy. For we know, O Lord, that Thy mercy will aid us in all temptations.



III

O LORD Jesus Christ, the champion of Thy soldiers, who by Thy victory on the cross didst humble the pride of the evil one, rise to my aid. Say to my soul, "I am thy salvation," for Thou didst say, "thou shalt walk unhurt on the asp and the basilisk, and tread the lion and the dragon beneath thy foot."



IV

I BLESS Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, I praise and glorify Thy Holy Name ; for the virtue of Thy power has made me, a weak woman, strong, and enabled me to pass through the triumphant agonies of martyrdom. Therefore I humbly pray and beseech Thee that my soul may now be taken up by Thine angels, so far as I may be deemed worthy to possess with the company of

Thy saints the joys of everlasting happiness, and to behold Thy desirable presence, which I have ever desired ; who with the Father and the Holy Ghost, livest and reignest, world without end. *Amen.*



July 22

S. MARY MAGDALENE, PENIT.

AND, behold, a woman in the city which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at His feet behind Him, weeping, and began to wash His feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed His feet and anointed them with ointment. *Luke vii. 37, 38.*



JESUS saith unto her, "Mary." She turned herself and saith unto Him, "Rabboni," which is to say, "Master." *John xx. 16.*



*July 25***S. JAMES, A.M.****Collect I**

GRANT, O merciful God, that as Thine holy Apostle St. James, leaving his father and all that he had, without delay, was obedient unto the calling of Thy son Jesus Christ, and followed Him ; so we, forsaking all worldly and carnal affections, may be evermore ready to follow Thy holy commandments ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Collect II**

GRANT, O merciful God, that as Thy holy Apostle St. James, leaving his father and all that he had, without delay, was obedient to the call of Thy son Jesus Christ, and followed Him, and at last cheerfully laid down his life for His gospel's sake, so I, forsaking all worldly and carnal affections, may be evermore ready to follow Thy holy commandments, and, whenever Thy providence shall make it my duty, may readily and cheerfully embrace death, though armed with his utmost terror, rather than forsake or deny Thee. Let me rejoice in every happy occasion

of testifying the sincerity of my love, by suffering for Thy truth, and let the firm belief of those glorious eternal rewards which Thou hast prepared for them who lay down their lives for Thy sake, support me under all the cruelties of the most merciless persecutors. Grant this, O blessed Lord, who didst die for me, and didst rise again, and now sittest at the right hand of the Father, to intercede for me, and all Thy faithful disciples. *Amen.*



From the Liturgy of S. James*

O GOD, who has taught us Thy divine and saving oracles, enlighten the souls of us sinners for the comprehension of the things which have been before spoken, so that we may not only be seen to be hearers of spiritual things, but also doers of good deeds, striving after guileless faith, blameless life, and pure conversation.

Release, pardon, and forgive, O God, all our voluntary and involuntary sins, such as we have committed in action and in word, knowingly and ignorantly, by night and by day, in mind and thought, forgive us all in goodness and love.

Sanctify, O Lord, our souls, bodies and spirits ; examine our minds and search our consciences ; take from us all evil imaginations, all impurity of

* So-called.

thought, all inclinations to lust, all depravity of conception, all envy, pride and hypocrisy, all falsehood, deceit and irregular living, all covetousness, vain glory and sloth ; all malice, anger and wrath, all remembrance of injuries, all blasphemy and every motion of flesh and spirit that is contrary to the purity of Thy will.



Aug. 5

S. OSWALD, K.M.

In Time of Battle—To His Army

I

LET us all together pray upon our knees that the Lord Almighty, the one true and living God, may, by His infinite mercy, defend us from the proud and savage enemy. For He knoweth that we are fighting a just battle for the safety of our race.



II

Dying Words

My God, my God, have mercy on the souls of my soldiers and my people.

*Aug. 10***S. LAWRENCE, M.****Under Torture**

BLESSED art Thou, O Lord God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hast vouchsafed to give us mercy that we did not deserve. But do Thou, O Lord, of Thy loving pity grant me Thy grace, that all here may know and understand that Thou dost comfort and succour Thy servants.

*Aug. 20***S. BERNARD, Abb.**

IO Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, who in the fellowship of Thy most bitter sorrow, didst take upon Thee the cause of my sorrow and the redemption of my sins, to Thee in company with all who are heartily sorry and do earnestly repent and call upon Thee, I do confess all my sins, of evil done and good left undone, or good done carelessly and without pure intent; all the transgressions whose number, weight and measure, Thou, O Lord, knowest better than I. I confess unto Thee the lost days of my life, in which I have sinned against

Thee and diminished Thy praise, falling from Thee who art the highest good.

Take then, O Lord, from my miserable life, the remainder of my years. Despise not, O Lord, a humble and contrite heart in return for these years which I have wasted by evil living, and lost by living in sin. My days have past and fruitlessly perished. I cannot recall them ; but may it please Thee that I live them over again in the bitter contrition of my soul. The bottomless deep of my misery, O Lord, calls unto the unsounded deep of Thy mercy.

Keep not back from me in anger Thy merciful pity ; let not the inexhaustible fountain of Thy mercy be dried up around me by reason of my sins, O Thou who hast mercy on all men, and hatest nothing that Thou hast made, but put my sins from Thee by reason of my penitence.

For Thine, O Lord, is the remission of sins, have mercy upon me whilst the time of grace and mercy is yet with us ; and whilst it is yet the time of redemption grant that I may be held worthy of Thy blessing, that on the Day of Judgment I meet not with the word of condemnation.

Make me, I beseech Thee, O Lord, to relinquish my evil habits and to do what is pleasing to Thee, and grant that the zeal which I have hitherto exercised in sin, I may, by Thine aid, exercise henceforth according to Thy will, that where my wrongdoing was abundant there Thy grace may now exceedingly abound.

I beseech Thee for Thy dear Name's sake, and for the love of Thy most holy and glorious Mother, the Virgin Mary, and by the intercessions of all Thy saints, pardon all my sins, negligences and ignorances, and keep not my transgressions in wrath until the end. Remember, O Lord Jesus, that it is not Thine to lose any of those whom Thy father gave to Thee, but that it is ever Thy peculiar grace to have mercy and to spare ; to lose none but to save all. For Thy Father sent Thee into the world, not that Thou mightest judge the world, but that we might have life through Thee ; that Thou mightest be the propitiation of our sins and our advocate, not our accuser. For our debts Thou hast paid ; and our sins Thou hast washed away ; and what we neglected Thou hast fulfilled.

Let there avail then, O Lord, even in the extremity of my offences, the full and more than perfect satisfaction of Thy most bitter death and the inestimable price of the blood Thou didst shed for us ; the commemoration of Thy sacrifice, and the dread mystery of Thy body and blood, O Lord, which is daily offered in the Church to Thee for the salvation of Thy faithful servants ; in which Thou art Thyself the Priest, and the Sacrifice, the Offerer, the Receiver, and the Oblation. Let these avail, I beseech Thee, so that I may be deemed worthy at this present time of grace which I have not merited, and that in the life to come I may obtain that peace and glory which Thy most bitter death won for me.

Thine eyes, O Lord Jesu, have seen my imperfection, but do not, O Thou most Holy, most merciful, triumphant over evil, do not, I beseech Thee, impute it to me for eternal punishment, O Thou who didst order all things for the highest and perfect good, O Best, O most Perfect, O Lord most Wise. Let me not be blotted out from the Book of Life ; but give me the portion which is mine by virtue of Thy most precious passion, in return for which Thou didst wish to have men as joint-heirs with Thee.

Let the consideration of the frailty of our nature move and incline Thee to mercy, O Lord, who knowest whereof we are made, and that Thou didst not vainly set man upon the earth. Preserve the work of Thy loving pity, lest Thou shalt have suffered in vain for me, and shed Thy blood for me in vain.

O Thou, who dost wash away our sins, grant that I, being purified through Thee from the stain of my sins, with mind and heart and soul made pure, may learn to know and acknowledge Thee, and humbly to follow after Thee, that so at last I may be deemed worthy, by a calm and peaceful death, to come to Thee, O Jesu Christ, my Lord and my God, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost, livest and reignest, world without end.
Amen.



Aug. 20

Ad Christum a Cruce Pendentem

SALVE, caput cruentatum,
Totum spinis coronatum,
Conquassatum, vulneratum,
Arundine verberatum,
Facie sputis illita.
Salve, cujus dulcis vultus,
Immutatus et incultus,
Immutavit suum florem,
Totus versus in pallorem,
Quem cœli tremit curia.

Omnis vigor atque viror
Hinc recessit, non admiror,
Mors apparet in adspectu,
Totus pendens in defectu,
Attritus ægra macie.
Sic affectus, sic despectus,
Propter me sic interfectus,
Peccatori tam indigno
Cum amoris intersigno
Appare clara facie.

In hac tua passione
Me agnosce, Pastor bone,
Cujus sumpsi mel ex ore,
Haustum lactis cum dulcore,
Præ omnibus deliciis.

Non me reum asperneris,
Nec indignum dedigneris ;
Morte tibi jam vicina
Tuum caput hic inclina,
In meis pausa brachiis.

Tuæ sanctæ passioni,
Me gauderem interponi,
In hac cruce tecum mori,
Præsta crucis amatori,
Sub cruce tua moriar.
Morti tuæ tam amaræ
Grates ago, Jesu care,
Qui es clemens pie Deus,
Fac quod petit tuus reus,
Ut absque te non finiar.

Dum me mori est necesse,
Noli mihi tunc deesse ;
In tremenda mortis hora
Veni, Jesu, absque mora,
Tuere me et libera.
Cum me jubes emigrare,
Jesu care, tunc appare ;
O amator amplectende,
Temetipsum tunc ostende
In cruce salutifera.



*Aug. 24***S. BARTHOLOMEW, A.P.M.**

Collects

I

 ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who didst give Thine Apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach Thy Word; grant, we beseech Thee, unto Thy Church to love that Word which he believed, and both to preach and receive the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



II

O ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who didst give to Thy Apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and preach Thy Word; grant that I may love and receive that Word which he believed; increase my knowledge, and confirm my faith evermore; make me, like him, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile; that paying an entire uniform obedience to all Thy commandments, and seeking, in all my words and actions, to advance Thy glory, I may, through Thy infinite mercy, be graciously

accepted by Thee, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*



NATHANIEL answered and said unto Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God : Thou art the King of Israel." *John i. 50.*



Aug. 25

S. LOUIS, K.C.

Prayer for his Son

BESEECH our Lord Jesus Christ, of His great mercy, to guard you from all evils, to protect and strengthen you in His service, and always so to increase His grace in you, that you never do anything against His Holy Will, and that He may ever be faithfully honoured and served by you. And this same grace I beg for myself, that, when this mortal life is ended, we may together see Him, love Him, and praise Him for all eternity. *Amen.*



*Aug. 28***S. AUGUSTINE, B.C.D.****I**

LORD, who art the Light, the Way, the Truth, the Life ; in whom there is no darkness, error, vanity, or death—the Light without which there is darkness ; the Way without which there is wandering ; the Truth without which there is error ; the Life without which there is Death : say, Lord, let there be Light, and I shall see Light, and eschew Darkness ; I shall see the way and avoid wandering ; I shall see the Truth and shun error ; I shall see Life and escape Death : Illuminate, O illuminate my blind soul which sitteth in darkness and the shadow of Death ; and direct my feet into the way of Peace. *Amen.*

**II***

WHAT art Thou then, my God ? What, but the Lord God ? For who is Lord but the Lord ? or who is God save our God ? Most highest, most good, most potent, most omnipotent, most merciful, yet most just ; most hidden, yet most

* This and the following are from the “Confessions,” translated by Pusey.

present ; most beautiful, yet most strong ; stable yet incomprehensible ; unchangeable, yet all-changing ; never new, never old ; all-renewing ; and bringing age upon the proud, and they knew it not ; ever working, ever at rest ; still gathering, yet nothing lacking ; supporting, filling, and over-spreading ; creating, nourishing, and maturing ; seeking, yet having all things. Thou lovest without passion ; art jealous without anxiety ; repentest, yet grieveest not ; art angry, yet serene ; changest Thy works, Thy purpose unchanged ; receivest again what Thou findest, yet didst never lose ; never in need, yet rejoicing in gains ; never covetous, yet exacting usury. Thou receivest over and above, that Thou mayest owe ; and who hath aught that is not Thine ? Thou payest debts, owing nothing ; remittest debts, losing nothing. And what have I now said, my God, my life, my holy joy ? or what saith any man when he speaks of Thee ? Yet woe to him that speaketh not, since mute are even the most eloquent.

O ! that I might repose on Thee ! O ! that Thou wouldest enter into my heart, and inebriate it, that I may forget my ills, and embrace Thee, my sole good ! What art Thou to me ? In Thy pity, teach me to utter it. Or what am I to Thee, that Thou demandest my love, and, if I give it not, art wroth with me, and threatenest me with grievous woes ? Is it then a slight woe to love Thee not ? O ! for Thy mercies' sake, tell me, O Lord my God,

what Thou art unto me. Say unto my soul, I am thy Salvation. So speak, that I may hear. Behold, Lord, my heart is before Thee ; open Thou the ears thereof, and say unto my soul, I am thy Salvation. After this voice let me haste, and take hold on Thee. Hide not Thy face from me. Let me die—lest I die—only let me see Thy face.

Narrow is the mansion of my soul ; enlarge Thou it, that Thou mayest enter in. It is ruinous, repair Thou it. It has that within which must offend Thine eyes ; I confess and know it. But who shall cleanse it ? or to whom should I cry, save Thee ? Lord, cleanse me from my secret faults, and spare Thy servant from the power of the enemy. I believe, and therefore do I speak. Lord, Thou knowest, have I not confessed against myself my transgressions unto Thee, and Thou, my God, hast forgiven the iniquity of my heart ? I contend not in judgment with Thee, who art the Truth ; I fear to deceive myself lest mine iniquity lie unto itself. Therefore I contend not in judgment with Thee ; for if Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall abide it ?



III

HEAR, Lord, my prayer ; let not my soul faint under Thy discipline, nor let me faint in con-

fessing unto Thee all Thy mercies whereby Thou hast drawn me out of all my most evil ways, that Thou mightest become a delight to me above all the allurements which I once pursued ; that I may most entirely love Thee, and clasp Thy hand with all my affections, and Thou mayest yet rescue me from every temptation, even unto the end. For lo, O Lord, my King and my God, for Thy service be whatever useful thing my childhood learned ; for Thy service that I speak, write, read, reckon. For Thou didst grant me Thy discipline while I was learning vanities ; and my sin of delighting in those vanities Thou hast forgiven. In them, indeed, I learnt many a useful word, but these may as well be learned in things not vain ; and that is the safe path for the steps of youth.



IV

O LORD our God, under the shadow of Thy wings let us hope ; protect us and carry us. Thou wilt carry us both when little, and even to hoar hairs wilt Thou carry us ; for our firmness, when it is Thou, then is it firmness ; but when our own, it is infirmity. Our good ever lives with Thee, from which, when we turn away, we are turned aside. Let us now, O Lord, return, that we may not be overturned, because with

Thee our good lives without any decay, which good art Thou ; nor need we fear lest there be no place whither to return because we fell from it, for through our absence our mansion fell not — Thy eternity.

Accept the sacrifice of my confessions from the ministry of my tongue, which Thou hast formed and stirred up to confess unto Thy name. Heal Thou all my bones, and let them say, O Lord, who is like unto Thee ? For he who confesses to Thee, doth not teach Thee what takes place within him ; seeing a closed heart closes not out Thine eye, nor can man's hard-heartedness thrust back Thine hand, for Thou dissolvest it at Thy will, in pity or in vengeance, and nothing can hide itself from Thy heat. But let my soul praise Thee, that it may love Thee ; and let it confess Thine own mercies to Thee, that it may praise Thee. Thy whole creation ceaseth not, nor is silent in Thy praises ; neither the spirit of man with voice directed unto Thee, nor creation, animate or inanimate, by the voice of those who meditate thereon ; that so our souls may, from their weariness, arise towards Thee, leaning on those things which Thou hast created, and passing on to Thyself, who madest them wonderfully, and there is refreshment and true strength.

Let the restless, the godless depart and flee from Thee ; yet Thou seest them, and dividest the darkness. And behold, the universe with them is fair, though they are foul. And how

have they injured Thee? or how have they disgraced Thy government, which, from the heaven to this lowest earth, is just and perfect? For whither fled they, when they fled from Thy presence? Or where dost thou not find them? But they fled, that they might not see Thee seeing them, and blinded, might stumble against Thee; (because Thou forsakest nothing Thou hast made), that the unjust, I say, might stumble upon Thee, and justly be hurt; withdrawing themselves from Thy gentleness, and stumbling at Thy uprightness, and falling upon their own ruggedness. Ignorant, in truth, that Thou art everywhere, Whom no place encompasseth! and Thou alone art near, even to those that remove far from Thee. Let them be turned, and seek Thee; because not as they have forsaken their Creator, hast Thou forsaken Thy creation. Let them be turned and seek Thee, and behold, Thou art there in their heart, in the heart of those that confess to Thee, and cast themselves upon Thee, and weep in Thy bosom, after all their rugged ways. Then dost Thou gently wipe away their tears, and they weep no more, and joy in weeping; even for that Thou, Lord—not man of flesh and blood, but—Thou, Lord, who madest them, re-makest and comfortest them. But where was I, when I was seeking Thee? And Thou wert before me, but I am gone away from Thee; nor did I find myself, how much less Thee!

V

Too late loved I Thee, O Thou Beauty of ancient days, yet ever new ! too late I loved Thee ! And behold, Thou wert within, and I abroad, and there I searched for Thee ; deformed I, plunging amid those fair forms which Thou hadst made. Thou wert with me, but I was not with Thee. Things held me far from Thee, which, unless they were in Thee, were not at all. Thou calledst, and shoutedst, and burstest my deafness. Thou flashedst, shonest, and scatteredst my blindness. Thou breathedst odours, and I drew in breath and pant for Thee. I tasted, and hunger and thirst. Thou touchedst me, and I burned for Thy peace.

When I shall with my whole self cleave to Thee, I shall nowhere have sorrow or labour ; and my life shall wholly live, as wholly full of Thee. But now, since whom Thou fillest, Thou liftest up, because I am not full of Thee I am a burthen to myself. Lamentable joys strive with joyous sorrows : and on which side is the victory, I know not. Woe is me ! Lord, have pity on me. My evil sorrows strive with my good joys ; and on which side is the victory, I know not. Woe is me ! Lord, have pity on me. Woe is me ! lo ! I hide not my wounds ; Thou art the Physician, I the sick ; Thou merciful, I miserable. Is not the life of man upon earth all trial ? Who wishes for troubles and difficulties ? Thou com-

mandest them to be endured, not to be loved. No man loves what he endures, though he love to endure. For though he rejoices that he endures he had rather there were nothing for him to endure. In adversity, I long for prosperity, in prosperity I fear adversity. What middle place is there betwixt these two, where the life of man is not all trial? Woe to the prosperities of the world, once and again, through fear of adversity, and corruption of joy! Woe to the adversities of the world, once and again, and the third time, from the longing for prosperity, and because adversity itself is a hard thing, and lest it shatter endurance. Is not the life of man upon earth all trial, without any interval?

And all my hope is nowhere but in Thy exceeding great mercy. Give what Thou enjoimest, and enjoin what Thou wilt. Thou enjoimest us continency; and when I knew, saith one, that no man can be continent, unless God give it, this also was a part of wisdom to know whose gift she is. By continency, verily, are we bound up and brought back into One, whence we were dissipated into many. For too little doth he love Thee, who loves any thing with Thee, which he loveth not for Thee. O love, who ever burnest and never consumest! O charity, my God! kindle me. Thou enjoimest continency: give me what Thou enjoimest, and enjoin what Thou wilt.



VI

How hast Thou loved us, good Father, who sparedst not Thine only Son, but deliveredst Him up for us ungodly ! How hast Thou loved us, for whom He that thought it no robbery to be equal with Thee was made subject even to the death of the cross, He alone free among the dead, having power to lay down His life, and power to take it again : for us to Thee both Victor and Victim, and therefore Victor, because the Victim ; for us to Thee Priest and Sacrifice, and therefore Priest because the Sacrifice ; making us to Thee, of Servants, Sons, by being born of Thee, and serving us. Well, then, is my hope strong in Him, that Thou wilt heal all my infirmities, by Him Who sitteth at Thy right hand and maketh intercession for us ; else should I despair. For many and great are my infirmities, many they are, and great ; but Thy medicine is mightier. We might imagine that Thy Word was far from any union with man, and despair of ourselves, unless He had been made flesh and dwelt among us.

Affrighted with my sins and the burthen of my misery, I had cast in my heart, and had purposed to flee to the wilderness ; but Thou forbaddest me, and strengthenedst me, saying, Therefore Christ died for all, that they which live may now no longer live unto themselves, but unto Him that died for them. See, Lord, I cast

my care upon Thee, that I may live, and consider wondrous things out of Thy law. Thou knowest my unskilfulness, and my infirmities ; teach me, and heal me. He, Thine only Son, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, hath redeemed me with His blood. Let not the proud speak evil of me ; because I meditate on my ransom, and eat and drink, and communicate it ; and poor, desired to be satisfied from Him, amongst those that eat and are satisfied, and they shall praise the Lord who seek Him.



VII

O LORD my God, give ear unto my prayer, and let Thy mercy hearken unto my desire ; because it is anxious not for myself alone, but would serve brotherly charity ; and Thou seest my heart, that so it is. I would sacrifice to Thee the service of my thought and tongue ; do Thou give me, what I may offer thee. For I am poor and needy, Thou rich to all that call upon Thee ; Who, inaccessible to care, carest for me. Circumcise from all rashness and all lying both my inward and outward lips : let Thy Scriptures be my pure delights ; let me not be deceived in them, nor deceive out of them. Lord, hearken and pity, O Lord my God, Light of the blind, and Strength of the weak ; yea also Light of

those that see, and strength of the strong, hearken unto my soul, and hear it crying out of the depths. For if thine ears be not with us in the depths also, whither shall we go? Whither cry? The day is Thine, and the night is Thine; at Thy beck the mountains flee by. Grant therefore a space for our meditations in the hidden things of Thy law, and close it not against us who knock. For not in vain wouldest Thou have the darksome secrets of so many pages written; nor are those forests without their harts which retire therein and range and walk, feed, lie down and ruminate. Perfect me, O Lord, and reveal them unto me. Behold, Thy voice is my joy; Thy voice exceedeth the abundance of pleasures. Give what I love; for I do love; and this hast Thou given; forsake not Thine own gifts, nor despise Thy green herb that thirsteth. Let me confess unto Thee whatsoever I shall find in Thy books, and hear the voice of praise, and drink in Thee, and meditate on the wonderful things out of Thy law; even from the beginning, wherein Thou madest the heaven and the earth, unto the everlasting reigning of Thy holy city with Thee.



VIII

O LET the Light, the Truth, the Light of my heart, not mine own darkness, speak unto me.

I fell off into that, and became darkened ; but even thence, even thence I loved Thee. I went astray, and remembered Thee. I heard Thy voice behind me, calling me to return, and scarcely heard it, through the tumultuousness of the enemies of peace. And now, behold, I return in distress and panting after Thy fountain. Let no man forbid me ! of this will I drink, and so live. Let me not be mine own life ; from myself I lived ill, death was I to myself ; and I revive in Thee. Do Thou speak unto me, do Thou discourse unto me. I have believed Thy Books, and their words be most full of mystery.



IX

ANGELS fell away, man's soul fell away, and thereby pointed out the abyss in that dark depth, ready for the whole spiritual creation, hadst not Thou said from the beginning, "Let there be light," and there had been light, and every obedient intelligence of Thy heavenly city had cleaved to Thee, and rested in Thy Spirit, which is borne unchangeably over everything changeable. Otherwise, had even the heaven of heavens been in itself a darksome deep ; but now it is light in the Lord. For even in that miserable restlessness of the spirits, who fell away and discovered their own darkness, when bared of the clothing of

Thy light, dost Thou sufficiently reveal how noble Thou madest the reasonable creature ; to which nothing will suffice to yield a happy rest, less than Thee ; and so not even herself. For Thou, O our God, shalt lighten our darkness ; from Thee riseth our garment of light ; and then shall our darkness be as the noon day. Give Thyself unto me, O my God, restore Thyself unto me : behold, I love, and if it be too little, I would love more strongly. I cannot measure so as to know how much love there yet lacketh to me, ere my life may run into Thy embracements, nor turn away, until it be hidden in the hidden place of Thy Presence. This only I know, that woe is me except in Thee ; not only without but within myself also ; and all abundance, which is not my God, is emptiness to me.



Sept. 17

S. LAMBERT, B.M.

ARISE, O Lord, and judge my cause, and forget not Thy poor at the last. Despise not, O Lord, an humble and a contrite heart, but accept the ready sacrifice of our service, that the walls of Jerusalem may be reared to the glory and honour of Thy Name, which is blessed for evermore. Save me from my enemies, O Lord, and deliver me from those that rise up against me ; for it is not on account of mine

own iniquity and sin that strong and wicked men have risen up against me. Behold, the congregations of the mighty seek after my soul, but do Thou receive it into Thy peace, O Lord, who art ever compassionate and full of mercy.



Sept. 21

S. MATTHEW, A.E.M.

Collects

I



ALMIGHTY GOD, who by Thy blessed Son didst call Matthew from the receipt of custom to be an Apostle and Evangelist ; grant us grace to forsake all covetous desires, and inordinate love of riches, and to follow the same Thy Son Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*



II

O ALMIGHTY God, whose powerful call drew St. Matthew the publican from the very receipt of custom to become an eminent Apostle and Evangelist in Thy Church ; grant me grace to

forsake all covetous desires and inordinate love of riches, and to follow Thy Son Jesus Christ without delay ; wean my heart from the vanities of this world, from a too eager pursuit of temporal things, that my care may be to provide for eternity and to lay up a treasure in Heaven which faileth not ; that when my body shall return to dust, my soul may be received into the eternal mansions of Thy everlasting glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Sept. 26

S. CYPRIAN, Abp. M.

S. JUSTINA, V.M.

Prayers at their Martyrdom

S. JUSTINA.

GLORY be to Thee, O God, for Thou hast taken me, Thine unworthy servant, according to Thy gracious will, and judged me worthy to suffer these tortures for Thy Name.



S. CYPRIAN.

GLORY be to God on high, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men. For after that the devil was expelled from Heaven

all things were filled with peace ; for Christ by His advent on earth conquered the evil one, and by the virtue of His Cross in His loving mercy freed the world from the bondage of sin. Wherefore I thank Thee, O God, most merciful Lord, that I am suffering these torments for Thy Name, and I beseech Thee that Thou wilt admit this our sacrifice to partake of the odour of Thy sweet sanctity.

Glory be to Thee, O Christ ! *Amen.*



Sept. 29

S. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

Collect I



EVERLASTING GOD, who hast ordained and constituted the services of angels and men in a wonderful order ; mercifully grant, that as Thy holy angels always do Thee service in Heaven, so by Thy appointment they may succour and defend us on earth ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Collect II

O ETERNAL God, who in Thy wonderful providence hast made the angels ministering

spirits, and sendest them forth to minister to them who are the heirs of salvation ; behold with pity the temptations and dangers to which the frailty of my nature is perpetually exposed, and give Thy angels charge to bear me in their hands that I fall not, to succour and defend me in this my pilgrimage on earth, and to shield me from all the violence of the powers of darkness. And give me grace, I beseech Thee, to praise and adore Thee for their ministry and protection and to endeavour to do Thy will with the same diligence and industry, with the same zeal and cheerfulness, as Thy blessed angels do it in Heaven ; that imitating their exemplary obedience and unspotted purity in my life, I may enjoy the advantage of their assistance in the hour of death, in that dismal conflict with the powers of darkness ; and, being by them conducted to the mansions of glory, may be advanced to a more intimate society with them in the life to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Sept. 30

S. JEROME, P.C.D.*

OLY JESU, my virtue and consolation, my protector and deliverer, my praise, in whom I have put my hope and trust,

* Translated from the Pseudo-Eusebian "De Morte Hieronymi."

and whom I have loved ; O perfect sweetness and tower of strength, my hope from my youth up ; call me, guide of my life, and I will answer unto Thee. Stretch forth the right hand of Thy mercy to Thy handiwork, which Thou, the Creator of all things, didst form of clay, frame with bones and sinews, and to which by Thy death Thou didst grant pardon and life. Make no long tarrying, O Lord ; for it is time that the dust should turn again to dust, and that the spirit should return to Thee, my Saviour, who didst send it hither. Open to it the gates of life. For when Thou didst hang, like a thief, on the cross for me, Thou didst promise me that Thou wouldst so receive it. Come, my beloved Master, let me hold Thee and I will not let Thee go. Make me to enter into Thy mansion. Thou art my protector, my glory, who exaltest me ; my salvation and my blessing. Receive me into Thy keeping, O merciful God, according to the multitude of Thy mercies. For in Thine agony upon the cross Thou didst receive the thief who called upon Thee. Let me possess Thee, O Thou eternal happiness. I have strayed in my blindness from the path and call upon Thee, "O Jesu, Son of David, have mercy upon me." Illumine my darkness with the light of Thine eternal presence. O light invisible, without which Tobias cried, "What is my joy when I sit in darkness and behold not the light of Heaven?" O light, without which there is neither truth nor discernment, neither wisdom

nor happiness, illumine mine eyes lest ever I fall asleep in death and mine enemy say, "Lo! I have prevailed against him." I will say in the bitterness of my soul, "I am weary of life, for I am sick and the strength is gone from me in the midst of poverty." Therefore do I run to Thee, O God, my healer. Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be whole. Save me, and I shall be safe. And since I trust in Thee I shall not be put to shame. But who am I that I speak thus boldly to Thee, most Holy God? A sinner, wholly begotten, born, and brought up in sin; a rotting corpse, a foul vessel, the food of worms.

Alas, Lord, spare me. Arise and help me, who am less than a straw in the face of the wind. Like as the stag desires the water brooks, so thirsteth my soul and seeketh after Thee, the fountain of life, that it may drink with joy of the waters of salvation and thirst no more. When shall my soul come and appear before Thy face? O Lord, when wilt Thou look upon me and restore my soul to Thee? O come, joy of my spirit, that I may delight in Thee. Show me Thy mercy, O my happiness, and let me find Thee, my heart's desire. Even as a slave expecteth eagerly the end of his toil, so do I wait for Thee. Let my request come before Thee, O Lord; stretch forth Thy right hand and save me. Behold, I am one who, coming down from Jerusalem, has been set upon by robbers, grievously wounded and left half-dead. O Thou Good Samaritan, receive me! I have

sinned overmuch in my life, and done evil in Thy sight. I have not known Thee ; I have been ungrateful for all Thy benefits ; I have not praised Thee as I ought. Too often have I kept silent as to the truth. In my heart, when Thou was knocking at the door of my heart, I was not eager to receive Thee with reverence. Too dearly have I loved this corrupt body which passeth as a shadow. With vain words have I soiled my lips ; my study has not always been in Thy statutes. I have not turned away mine eyes, lest they beheld vanity. Mine ears I have defiled with unprofitable words ; my hands I have often failed to stretch out to the poor and needy. With my feet I have hastened to iniquity. From the sole of my foot to the crown of my head there is no health in me. Surely, if by Thy death on the cross Thou hadst not come to my aid, my soul had deserved to dwell in hell. But I, O Holy Jesus, am part of that great price. For me Thou didst shed Thy precious blood, cast me not away. I am as a sheep which has strayed from the fold ; seek me, O Good Shepherd, and place me with Thy flock, and be justified of Thy words. For Thou hast promised me that at whatever hour a sinner repenteth he shall be saved. I grieve and suffer for my faults ; I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sins are ever before me. Of a truth, I am not worthy to be called Thy son, because I have sinned against Heaven and before Thee. Turn Thy face from my sins. Blot out mine iniquities

according to Thy great mercy. Cast me not away from Thy presence. Deal not with me according to my sins, neither reward me after mine iniquities ; but help me, O God of my salvation, and for the honour of Thy Name deliver me. Graciously grant in Thy good will that I may dwell in Thy house all the days of my life, that with the inhabitants thereof I may for ever praise Thee. Arise, hasten, beloved Bridegroom of my soul, and consider not that it is foul and stained with sin. Show me Thy countenance, and let Thy voice sound in my ears. For Thy voice is sweet, and Thy countenance most beautiful. Turn not away from me, and hide not Thyself from Thy servant in this hour. Put me not into the power of them that persecute me. O Lord, I wait for Thee. Turn my weeping into joy. Incline Thine ear unto me, and make speed to bear me from this valley of tears and sorrow.

O gentle Jesus, I am dead through my sins. Rise Thou and give me life, and I will trust in Thee. I am sick and feeble ; there is no longer any health in my body. But Thou art the physician, heal Thou me. I am naked and shiver in the cold, clothe Thou me, for Thou art rich. I perish from hunger in this wilderness ; feed Thou me, for Thou art the bread of life. I thirst ; give Thou me to drink, for Thou art the cup of salvation. I am come into deep waters, so that the floods run over me. I am weary of crying ; my throat is dry. The

waters are come in, even unto my soul. Take me out of the mire, that I sink not ; deliver me from the snare of wicked men, O Lord, my Protector, my Pilot, my Stay, my Refuge, my Guide, my King, my God !



Oct. 1

S. REMIGIUS, B.

WHEN shall I come and appear before the face of my God ? O Lord, let Thy glory be manifested unto me, and then shall I be satisfied. My tears have been my meat by day and night. For as the body is satisfied with bread, so is my soul refreshed with the tears of penitence ; for from thence cometh my hope of the remission of sins.



Oct. 4

S. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, C.

I

Prayer prescribed to the Brethren

WE adore Thee, O Christ, in all Thy Churches which are in all the world, and we bless Thee, because Thou hast by Thy Holy Cross redeemed the world.

II

The Daily Prayer of S. Francis

My God, and my all, who art Thou, sweetest Lord, my God ? And who am I, a poor worm, Thy servant ? Holiest Lord, I would love Thee ! Sweetest Lord, I would love Thee ! Lord, my God, I give to Thee all my heart and body, and vehemently desire, if I might know how, to do more for Thy love.



III

Now to that God, who has suffered so much for us, who at one giving has conferred on us so many good things, and will yet confer so many more, to this God let every creature who is in Heaven or upon the earth, in the sea or in the depth of the abyss, render praise, glory, honour and blessing. He is himself our virtue and our strength. He alone is good, lofty, almighty, admirable, and glorious ; the only holy, worthy of praise and blessed through ages of ages. *Amen.*



*Oct. 6***S. BRUNO, C.****Prayers before setting out and Founding the
Carthusian Monastery****I**

Q LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, whose mercy surpasseth all judgment, who rejoicest not in the death of sinners, but rather givest to them time and opportunity for repentance; who didst command Abraham, Thy servant, to leave his land and family and to depart from the home of his father; who didst stretch forth Thy mighty hand and lead Thy people from the land of Egypt; who hast promised pardon to those that do truly and earnestly repent; extend to us now, we beseech Thee, Thy mercy; and graciously send Thy holy messenger from heaven to teach us what we ought to do, to direct our feet in the path of justice and in the ways of Thy commandments, and to show us the place that thou hast chosen, and grant that we may worthily serve Thee there, shunning the dangers of this world and bringing forth fruits meet for repentance.

Defend us, O Lord, from the snares of our enemies, who are ever eager to destroy us; and enter not into judgment with Thy servants; but, cleansed from all sin by the merit of the

passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, make us, after we have passed from this life, gladly to come to Him, Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. *Amen.*



II

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, whose mercy we cannot measure, nor can we tell the times and seasons thereof: Who callest whom Thou wilt, and dost justify and magnify those whom Thou callest; look, we beseech Thee, with the eyes of Thy clemency upon these Thy humble servants whom Thou hast graciously summoned to the fulfilment of Thy service, and afford them the aid of Thy grace, that they may worthily and perfectly perform the things which are pleasing to Thee. Fill them with Thy venerable virtues, that, so armed, they may be strong to overcome the snares of the world, the flesh and the devil, and thereafter to receive the imperishable crown of victory. Make them to wax and increase mightily; and graciously receive into the college of Thy saints both these, and those also who follow in their footsteps, and, in the solitude of a life devoted to Thee, persevere in true humility and charity even unto the end,

freed from all guilt and sin, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Oct. 6

S. FAITH, V.M.



LORD JESUS CHRIST, who art ever ready to help in all things those who are Thine; succour now Thy servant, and put into my mouth an acceptable speech, where-with I may worthily answer and uphold my faith in the presence of this unrighteous tyrant.



Oct. 8

S. BRIGET OF SWEDEN, W.



Y Thy grace, O Christ, I have the will to do Thy will all the days of my life. O Lord, who hast created and redeemed me by Thy most precious blood, if Thou seest that I am wanting in faith, hope, or charity, graciously make good my defect according to Thy great mercy.

O Lord Jesus Christ, I thank Thee for all Thy mercies, and especially for these three: first, that Thou clothest my soul with the garment of repentance and contrition, whereby all sin, however great, is washed away; secondly, that Thou

feedest my spirit with the bread of thy charity and the memory of Thy passion, that most delectable feast of the soul ; thirdly, that Thou comfortest all who call upon Thee in tribulation. Have mercy upon me, therefore, O Lord, and strengthen my faith. O Lord, I believe. Help Thou mine unbelief !



Oct. 9

S. DIONYSIUS



GOD THE FATHER, Origin of Divinity, good beyond all that is good, fair beyond all that is fair, in Whom is calmness, peace, and concord ; do Thou make up the dissensions which divide us from each other, and bring us back into an unity of love, which may bear some likeness to Thy sublime nature. And as Thou art above all things, make us one by the unanimity of a good mind, that through the embrace of charity and the bonds of affection we may be spiritually one, as well in ourselves as in each other, through that peace of Thine which maketh all things peaceful, and through that grace, mercy, and tenderness of Thine Only begotten Son.



*Oct. 14***S. COSMAS**

MAVE mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for in Thee have we put our trust. Be not exceeding wroth with us, neither remember our transgressions, but turn again and look on us in Thy loving pity, and deliver us from our enemies. For thou art our Lord and we are Thy people. We are the work of Thy hands, and are called after Thy name.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Without excuse, without a plea, as servants to a master whom they have wronged, we bring to Thee this prayer. O Lord have mercy upon us.*

*Oct. 15***S. TERESA, V.**

MAYEST Thou be pleased, O God my Treasure, that the time may come in which I may pay some small part of the much I owe Thee. Order, Lord, according to Thy pleasure, some way in which Thy servant may serve Thee in something. Others have been women and have done heroic things for

* From the Greek Hymns.

love of Thee: I am only fit to chatter idly, and thus Thou wilt not, my God, entrust me with works. All my service goes in words and desires. Strengthen Thou my soul and first renew within me a right disposition, O Thou Treasure of Treasures! Order soon the ways in which I can do something for Thee. Here is my life, my honour, and my will: all have I given to Thee. Thine I am; dispose of me according to Thy will. Well do I see, my Lord, how little I can do; but close to Thee, aloft in this watch-tower where truth is seen, if Thou dost not leave me, I can do everything.



Oct. 18

S. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

Collect I

ALMIGHTY GOD, who calledst Luke the Physician, whose praise is in the Gospel, to be an Evangelist, and Physician of the soul; may it please thee that, by the wholesome medicine of the doctrine delivered by him, all the diseases of our souls may be healed; through the merits of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Collect II

I YIELD Thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, for those glad tidings of salvation which Thy Evangelist St. Luke hath published to the world, for all the manifestations of Thy holy will, and of that inestimable redemption Thou hast graciously condescended to work out for us; and for that Thou hast been pleased to regenerate us by Thy Holy Spirit, to receive us for Thine own children by adoption, and to incorporate us into Thy Holy Church. And I humbly beseech Thee to grant that, by the wholesome doctrine of Thy Gospel, all the diseases of my soul may be healed; that finally, with the residue of Thy holy Church, I may be an inheritor of Thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Oct. 25

S. CRISPIN, M.

Prayer under Torture

LOOK on Thy servants, O Lord, and on Thy creatures, and help us to perfect Thy work without blot or stain.

Judge us, O Lord, and deliver us from the hands of impious and crafty men.

Help us, O Lord God of our salvation, and

for the glory of Thy name deliver us. Deal not with us after our sins, for Thy Name's sake, lest the people say, "Where is now their God?"

We give Thee thanks, O Lord, who taketh us from this life and dost, in Thy most tender mercy, order us to come to Thee.



Oct. 28

S. SIMON AND S. JUDE, AA., M.M.

Collect I



ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast built Thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the head corner-stone; grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made an holy temple acceptable unto Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Collect II

O God, who by a glorious martyrdom calledst the blessed Apostles Simon and Jude from their eminent labours in Thy vineyard, to a blissful rest in Thy kingdom; grant me Thy grace, I beseech Thee, to improve this devout opportunity

of celebrating their memories, both by praising Thee for such excellent instructions, and pressing more lively on myself their saving doctrine and examples, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



MERCY unto you, and peace, and love be multiplied.

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. *Amen.*

Epistle of St. Jude.



Nov. 1

ALL SAINTS' DAY

Collect I



ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast knit together Thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of Thy Son Christ our Lord; grant us grace so to follow Thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which Thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect II

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, who hast enabled Thy Saints not only to believe in Thy Son, but also to suffer for His sake ; extend Thy Divine aid also to our weakness, that as they breathed out their happy souls for the hope of Thine everlasting mercy, we may at least attain it by a sincere confession of Thee ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Collect III

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, who adornest the sacred body of Thy Church by the confessions of Holy Martyrs ; grant us, we pray Thee, that both by their doctrines and their pious example, we may follow after what is pleasing in Thy sight ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*



Nov. 11

S. THEODORE STUDITA

 LORD, who didst give to Thine Apostles peace, shed down upon us all Thy holy calm ; gather together with Thy hand all those who are scattered, and bring them like

* Leonine.

sheep into the fold of Thy holy Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Strengthen and confirm me, O Lord, by Thy Cross, on the rock of faith, that my mind be not shaken by the attacks of the enemy. For Thou alone art holy.*

Thou knowest, O Lord, how many and great are my sins, Thou knowest how often I sin, from day to day, from hour to hour, in the things I do and the things I leave undone. No more, O Lord, no more, O Lord my God, will I provoke Thee; no more shall my desire be for anything but Thee, for Thou alone art truly lovable. And if again I offend in anything, I humbly beseech Thee of Thy Mercy to grant me strength to find favour again in Thy sight and to live in a manner more pleasing to Thee. *Amen.*



Nov. 16

S. EDMUND, Abp. Cantuar

From the "Speculum Ecclesiae"

I



GIVE Thee thanks, O Lord Jesu Christ, who hast guarded and protected me, Thine unworthy servant, with Thy presence, through the night that is past, and

* From the Greek Hymns.

brought me whole, safe, and unharmed unto this hour, and for all the other benefits which of Thy great goodness Thou hast conferred upon me, bringing me from the dawn even unto the close of this day, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. *Amen.*



II

INTO Thy hands, O Lord, I commend at this time my soul and body ; my parents, brothers, sisters, friends and enemies ; my relations and benefactors ; the members of my household and the children of Thy Church. Protect us, O Lord, at this time, from all the faults and lusts of the flesh, and from all the sins and temptations of the devil, from sudden death and the pains of hell. Pour into my heart the Light of Thy Holy Spirit and of Thy Grace, and make me ever obedient to Thy commands and let me not be for ever estranged from Thee, who with God the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest one God, world without end. *Amen.*



*Nov. 19***S. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY, W.**

Prayer at the Shrine of her Husband

LORD, I give Thee thanks that Thou hast consoled me by bringing back to me the bones of my dear husband. Thou knowest how greatly I have loved him ; and yet I do not repine at his being taken from me. O Lord, I would give the whole world if I might but have him back, that we two might trudge together, begging our bread. And yet, if that be contrary to Thy will, I would not give one hair of my head to buy him back. And now I commend him and myself to Thy grace, and Thy Will be done. *Amen.*

*Nov. 21***S. GELASIUS**

GOD, of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favourably on Thy whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery ; and by the tranquil operation of Thy perpetual Providence, carry out the work of man's salvation ; and let the whole world feel and see that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and all things are returning to perfection through Him from Whom they

took their origin, ever through our Lord Jesus Christ.* *Amen.*



ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, the comfort of the sad, the Strength of sufferers, let the prayers of those that cry out of any tribulation come unto Thee; that all may rejoice to find that Thy mercy is present with them in their afflictions, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



MAY Thy perpetual gifts, O Lord, be confirmed to Thy faithful servants, that in receiving them they may seek Thee, and in seeking Thee may endlessly receive them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



O MOST Merciful God, who, according to the multitude of Thy mercies, dost so put away the sins of those who truly repent, that thou rememberest them no more; open Thine Eye of mercy upon this Thy servant, who most earnestly desireth pardon and forgiveness. Renew in him, Most Loving Father, whatsoever hath been

* From the Gelasian Sacramentary (Bright).

decayed by the fraud and malice of the devil or by his own carnal will and frailness ; preserve and continue this sick member in the unity of Thy Church ; consider his contrition, accept his tears, assuage his pain, as shall seem to Thee most expedient for him. And forasmuch as he putteth his full trust only in Thy mercy, impute not unto him his former sins, but strengthen him with Thy Blessed Spirit, and when Thou art pleased to take him hence, take him unto Thy favour, through the merits of Thy most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.



Nov. 21

S. COLUMBANUS, Abb.



LORD, I beseech Thee, in the name of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, my God, bestow upon me that love which cannot fail, that my lamp may be lit and never extinguished, and that it may burn for me and lighten the paths of others. Do Thou, O Christ, our most sweet Saviour, graciously light our lamps, that they may burn for ever in Thy temple, and receive a never-dying light from Thee, the Light that

* From the Order for the Visitation of the Sick, in our Book of Common Prayer ; a free translation of the "Reconciliatio Pœnitentis ad mortem" in the Gelasian Sacramentary.

never dies. So lighten our darkness that the darkness of this world may flee from us.

Be it Thine, O most loving Saviour, to show Thyself to us who are knocking at the gate, that knowing Thee we may love Thee only, long for Thee only, and ever, night and day, think only on Thee. Graciously fill us with such love that we may love Thee as we ought. Let Thy love fill all our hearts, and Thy charity wholly possess us, so that we may not know how to love anything but Thee, who art everlasting. Inspire in our hearts Thy love in such measure that the waters of the heavens, the earth, and the sea may not be able to extinguish it. Grant this, O Lord, through Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*



Nov. 23

S. CLEMENT (of Rome), B.M.

Prayer before partaking of the Holy Sacrament



GOD, who art great, great in name and counsel, powerful in Thy works, the God and Father of Thy Holy Son Jesus, our Saviour, look upon us, Thy flock, which Thou hast chosen through Him to the glory of Thy Name ; sanctify us in body and soul, and grant that we, being purified from all filthiness

of flesh and spirit, may partake of the mystic blessings now going before Thee, and judge none of us unworthy of them, but be Thou our Supporter, our Helper, and Defender, through Thy Christ, with whom glory, honour, laud, praise, thanksgiving, be to Thee and the Holy Ghost for ever.* *Amen.*



O GOD Almighty, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Thine only begotten Son, give me a body unstained, a pure heart, a watchful mind, and an upright understanding, and the presence of Thy Holy Spirit, that I may obtain and ever hold fast to an unshaken faith in Thy Truth, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord; through whom be glory to Thee in the Holy Ghost, for ever and ever.* *Amen.*



BLESSED art Thou, O Lord, who hast nourished me from my youth up, who givest food to all flesh. Fill our hearts with joy and gladness, that we, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work in Christ Jesus our Lord, through whom to Thee be glory, honour, might, majesty, and dominion, for ever and ever.* *Amen.*

* From the Clementine Liturgy.

Nov. 30

S. ANDREW, A.M.

Collect I

ALMIGHTY GOD, who didst give such grace unto Thy holy Apostle Saint Andrew, that he readily obeyed the calling of Thy Son Jesus Christ, and followed Him without delay ; grant unto us all, that we, being called by Thy Holy Word, may forthwith give up ourselves obediently to fulfil Thy holy commandments, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Collect II

O GOD, whose grace kindled in the blessed Apostle Andrew so ardent a love of his Master, that it flamed out in vehement desires of His Cross ; grant that my devout celebration of the memory of his holy race and happy reward may quicken Thy grace in my heart, and encourage me, with confidence and joy, to undergo whatever sufferings Thy blessed Providence shall cast in my way. Preserve me steadfast in the belief of Thy heavenly truths, and undaunted in the profession of them. Enable me to trust in Thy goodness for support and deliverance under all

persecutions, and to fix my faith on those heavenly joys with which the afflictions of this life are not worthy to be compared ; that being made partaker of the sufferings of Christ, I may be glad with exceeding joy when His glory shall be revealed ; to whom with Thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*



Dec. 21

S. THOMAS, A.M.

Collect I

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-LIVING GOD, who, for the more confirmation of the faith, didst suffer Thy holy Apostle Thomas to be doubtful in Thy Son's resurrection, grant us so perfectly, and without all doubt, to believe in Thy Son Jesus Christ, that our faith in Thy sight may never be reprov'd. Hear us, O Lord, through the same Jesus Christ, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, now and for evermore. *Amen.*



Collect II

O ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, who for the more confirmation of the faith, didst suffer Thy holy Apostle Thomas to be doubtful in

Thy Son's resurrection, grant me so perfectly and without all doubt to believe in Thy Son Jesus Christ, that my faith in Thy sight may never be reprov'd. Assist me in Thy grace to mortify all the inordinate and corrupt inclinations of my heart which oppose the belief of Thy heavenly truths. Enable me to conquer my evil habits and govern my unruly passions, that they may not indispose my mind for embracing that evidence which so plentifully accompanies Thy divine revelations to the sons of men. Let not the scandalous divisions among Christians, nor the ill lives of those who profess Thy holy religion, ever stagger or weaken my belief of it, since love, and peace, and unity are the marks of Thy true disciples ; and Thy wrath is revealed from Heaven against all who obey not the Gospel of Thy Son. Keep my mind free from all prejudice, which puts so false a bias on the understanding, even in matters of the greatest importance, and which may prove so fatal and destructive to my eternal welfare ; that, seeing the reasonableness of those things Thou hast required to be believed, the perfection of those duties Thou hast enjoined to be practised, and the power and force of those motives upon which both are founded, I may be steadfast and immovable, and at last receive the end of my faith, even the salvation of my soul, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

“My Lord and my God.” *John* xx. 28.

*Dec. 25***CHRISTMAS DAY****Collect I**

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given us Thy only begotten Son to take our nature upon Him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin, grant that we, being regenerate, and made Thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Thy Holy Spirit, through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end.
Amen.

**Collect II**

GRANT, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to Thy people an inviolable firmness of faith, that as they confess Thine only begotten Son, the everlasting partaker of Thy glory, to have been born in our very flesh, of the Virgin Mother, they may be delivered from present adversities, and admitted into joys that shall abide ; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.*

* Leonine.

Collect III

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, who hast hallowed this day by the Incarnation of Thy Word, and the Child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary ; grant Thy people to share in this celebration, that they who have been redeemed by Thy grace may be happy as Thine adopted children ; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.*



HE that, as Job saith, taketh the vast body of the sea, turns it to and fro as a little child, and rolls it about with the swaddling bands of darkness ; He to lie there, the Lord of Glory, without all glory ! Instead of a palace, a poor stable ; of a cradle of state, a beast's cratch ; no pillow but a lock of hay ; no hangings but dust and cobweb ! Christ, though as yet He cannot speak, yet out of His crib, as a pulpit, this day preaches to us, and His theme is, "Learn of Me, for I am humble." This is the *præcipe* of the *præsepe*, as I may call it, the lesson of Christ's cratch.

(*Bishop Andrewes.*)



"GLORY to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." *Luke ii. 14.*

* Gelasian.

*Dec. 26***S. STEPHEN, M.****Collect I**

GRANT, O Lord, that in all our sufferings here upon earth for the testimony of Thy truth, we may steadfastly look up to Heaven, and by faith behold the glory which shall be revealed ; and being filled with the Holy Ghost, may learn to love and bless our persecutors by the example of Thy first martyr, Saint Stephen, who prayed for his murderers to Thee, O Blessed Jesus, who standest at the right hand of God to succour all those that suffer for Thee, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

**Collect II**

TEACH me, O blessed Jesus, to lay aside all angry and revengeful thoughts against my bitterest enemies, because Thou requirest it, and hast shown me the way by Thine own perfect example ; who tookest pity upon fallen man when he was in a state of enmity against Thee, and without importunity or application, didst admit him to terms of pardon and reconciliation, and didst pray for Thy persecutors, under the

sense and smart of those sufferings they inflicted in the very agony and bitterness of death. Teach me, therefore, to bear all malice with meekness and patience, and to return all offices of charity for affronts and indignities. Make me placable and ready to forgive, and candid in interpreting every word and action for the best. And do Thou, O blessed Jesus, forgive all my enemies and recover them to a right sense of things, and make me ready to be reconciled; and enable me, by Thy grace, so to tread in the steps of Thy first martyr, Saint Stephen, who prayed that his innocent blood might not be laid to the charge of his inhuman murderers, that I may receive pardon from Thee, as I readily grant it to my enemies, without which I am undone to all eternity. And, in all my sufferings for Thy truth, enable me, like that glorious martyr, to look steadfastly up to Heaven, and, by faith, to behold the glory that shall be revealed. Grant this, O Lord Jesus, who standest at the right hand of God to succour all those who suffer for Thee, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*



Prayer of S. Stephen

AND they stoned Stephen calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud

voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this he fell asleep. *Acts vii. 59, 60.*



Dec. 27

S. JOHN, A.E.

Collect I

MERCIFUL LORD, we beseech Thee to cast Thy bright beams of light upon Thy Church, that it, being enlightened by the doctrine of Thy blessed Apostle and Evangelist Saint John, may so walk in the light of Thy truth, that it may at length attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Collect II

Prayer of S. John

HE which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. *Amen.* Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. *Amen. Rev. xxii. 20, 21.*



Collect III

O GOD, by the prerogative of whose special grace the blessed Apostle Saint John obtained that transcendent character of the disciple whom Jesus loved, and after became the great teacher of mutual charity all over the world, grant, I beseech Thee, that his sacred memory may excite me also, and encourage me, to have the same purity of body and mind, the same steady love of Thee, and sincere charity to my neighbour, that I may aspire after some share in that blessed title and its happy consequents, Thy grace here, and Thy glory hereafter, through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who liveth and reigneth one God with Thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end. *Amen.*

*Dec. 28*

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, M.M.

Collect I



ALMIGHTY GOD, who, out of the mouths of babes and sucklings, hast ordained strength, and madest infants to glorify Thee by their deaths, mortify and kill all vices in us, and so strengthen us by Thy grace, that by the innocency of our lives and constancy

of our faith, even unto death, we may glorify Thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Collect II

O God, who by the death of the Holy Innocents, out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast perfected praise, and hast taught Thy Church that no age or occasion of suffering for our Saviour is exempt from reward; grant, I beseech Thee, that my celebrating this festival may make me adore this gracious dispensation of Thy Providence. And how severely soever Thou at any time seemest to treat me, grant that my heart may be confirmed in an entire resignation to Thy will, and assured that all my sufferings shall conduce to my eternal advantage, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



S. AUSTIN

LORD, teach me to know Thee, and to know myself.



*Dec. 29***S. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, M.**

LET us pray that our faith may not fail in tribulation, but that we may say with the Apostle, "Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor any other creature, shall separate us from the love of God." *

* Letter to the Clergy.

Prayers of Famous Men

Prayers of Famous Men

FROM THE LAMENTATION OF ORIGEN

The Prayer of the Fallen Priest

ALAS! what have I felt, and how am I fallen? Alas! how am I thus come to nought? There is no sorrow comparable unto my sorrow, there is no affliction that exceedeth my affliction, there is no bitterness that passeth my bitterness, there is no lamentation more lamentable than mine, neither is there any sin greater than my sin, and there is no salve for me. Where is that good Shepherd of Souls? Where is He that went down from Jerusalem to Jericho who also salved and cured him that was wounded of the thieves?

Seek me out, O Lord, who am fallen from the higher Jerusalem, who have broken the vow I made in Baptism, who have profaned my cognisance in that I dealt impiously with Thy blessed Name. Alas that ever I was doctor, and now occupy not the room of a disciple. Thou

knowest, O Lord, that I fell against my will ; when as I went about to brighten others I darkened myself, when I endeavoured to bring others from death to life, I brought myself from life to death, when I minded to present others before God, I presented myself before the devil.

Assist me, O Holy Spirit, and give me grace to repent. Let the fountains of tears be opened, and gush out into streams, to see if that peradventure I may have the grace worthily and thoroughly to repent, and to wipe out of the book of the conscience the accusation presented against me. But Thou, O think not upon polluted lips, neither weigh Thou the tongue that hath uttered lewd things ; but accept Thou repentance, affliction and bitter tears, the labour of the heart and the heaviness of the soul and have mercy upon me, and raise me up from out of the mire of corruption, for the slough thereof hath even choked me up. Woe is me that sometime was a pearl glistening in the golden garland of glory, but now thrown into the dust and trodden in the mire of contempt.

But, O Lord, I fall down before Thy mercy seat ; have mercy upon me who mourn thus out of measure, who have greatly offended, who have shed many salt and bitter tears, whose miserable case every creature hath lamented. Why hast Thou broken down my hedge and strongholds ? The wild boar out of the wood hath destroyed me, and the wild beast of the

field hath eaten me up. Rid me, O Lord, from the roaring lion. The whole assembly of saints doth make intercession unto Thee for me, who am an unprofitable servant. The whole choir of angels do intreat for me, who have grievously offended ; that Thou wilt show mercy unto the wandering sheep, that is subject to the rending teeth of the ravenous wolf. Save me, O Lord, out of his mouth, suffer me not to become the sacrifice of sin, but let down upon me Thine Holy Spirit, that I may be brought home again unto Thy wisdom, that the bill of sin written against me may be blotted out, that my lamentation may cease in the evening and receive joy in the morning. Let my sackcloth be rent asunder, and gird me with joy and gladness. Let me be received again into the joy of my God : let me be thought worthy of His kingdom, through the prayers and intercession of the saints, through the earnest petitions of the Church, which sorroweth over me, and humbleth herself unto Jesus Christ ; to whom with the Father and the Holy Ghost be all glory and honour for ever and ever. *Amen.*



PRAYER OF SIR THOMAS MORE



LORD GOD, grant that I may endeavour to get those things for which I am to pray unto Thee.

THE PRAYERS OF SIR RICHARD
STEELE

On Entering the Married State

I



GOD ALMIGHTY, who hast been pleased, out of Thy righteous mercy and careful providence, to place us two in the state of marriage, according to Thine own institution and guidance of the first mortals ; grant, we beseech Thee, that we may live in that state with mutual love, and that we endeavour to accommodate ourselves to each other's just desires and satisfactions ; that we may be a mutual help in all vicissitudes of life through which Thou hast designed us to pass, in such manner as we may contribute to each other's virtue in this world, and salvation in that which is to come. Protect us, O Lord, most mighty ; bless us, O Merciful Father ; and redeem us, O Holy Saviour ! Guard our paths from error, and keep our eyes from introducing wandering desires ; but grant such peace and tranquillity of mind, and such a steady course of virtue and piety, that we may be at Thy altar never-failing communicants, and by a worthy receipt of the elements representing Thy meritorious passion, we may, through that, be partakers of eternal life ; which Thou hast taught us, Our Father, which art in Heaven, &c.

II

ALMIGHTY God, who of Thine infinite goodness and mercy didst create and dost preserve all things both in Heaven and earth ; look down with an eye of mercy on us, whom Thy good providence hast ordained to live together in holy matrimony. Grant, O God, that no allurements, passion, jealousy, plenty or want, may so far transport us as to make us forget a sacred vow, made to each other and before Thee.

Let us, O Lord, with a lively, cheerful and habitual sense of such our obligations, check the first motives to anger and distress, and cherish all and omit none the least instances of tenderness and goodwill ; so shall we enjoy and pass through this human transient life, in a daily preparation for one that is celestial and eternal : not regarding posterity so as to forget eternity ; yet believing it not displeasing in Thy sight, that in our way to a certain and unchangeable being, we neglect not a provision for such as Thou mayst make us instruments to introduce into one that is various and uncertain. This, and whatever else Thy omnificent wisdom sees necessary for us, with relation to ourselves and the whole race of mankind, we beseech Thee, O Father of all things, bestow upon us. All which we beg in Thy Name, and through the mediation of Jesus Christ, who hath taught us, in a perfect and an unblamable manner to approach Thee, saying, Our Father, &c.

THE PRAYER OF SIR WALTER RALEIGH

THE Everlasting God, powerful, infinite, and inscrutable, God Almighty, who is goodness itself, the true light and life, keep you and yours and have mercy upon me and forgive my persecutors and false accusers ; and send us to meet in His glorious kingdom. My dear wife, farewell ; bless my boy, pray for me ; and let my true God hold you both in His arms.



THE PRAYER OF WILLIAM PENN

GLORD GOD ! Thou lovest holiness, and purity is Thy delight in the earth : wherefore I pray Thee make an end of sin and finish transgression, and bring in Thy everlasting righteousness to the souls of men, that Thy poor creation may be delivered from the bondage it groans under, and the earth enjoy her Sabbath again : that Thy great name may be lifted up in all nations, and Thy salvation renowned to the ends of the world. For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glôry, for ever. *Amen.*

BISHOP WILSON

BE gracious, O Lord, to all my relations, benefactors, enemies, and all that have desired my prayers ; all who, by their own labours, do minister to our necessities, together with all our known and unknown benefactors. Render, O God, a good return to all those who have been kind and charitable. Grant that we may all so live here as that we may meet hereafter in the paradise of God.

Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you. *John* xvi. 23.

These are what I ask, O God, O Father, above all things for myself, and for all that have desired my prayers. That we may be restored to Thy likeness and never deface it by our sins ; that the image of Satan may be destroyed in us ; and that all carnal affections may die in us, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may dwell in our hearts by faith ; that Thy Name and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in us and we in Him ; that our hearts may be entirely Thine. That we may never grieve Thy Holy Spirit, but that we may continue Thine for ever, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*



O GOD, almighty and merciful, let Thy fatherly kindness be upon all whom Thou hast made. Hear the prayers of all that call upon Thee ; open the eyes of them that never pray for themselves ; pity the sighs of such as are in misery ; deal mercifully with them that are in darkness ; and increase the number of graces of such as fear and serve Thee daily. Preserve this land from the misfortune of war ; this Church from all dangerous errors ; this people from forgetting Thee their Lord and Benefactor. Be gracious to all those countries that are made desolate by the sword, famine, pestilence, or persecution. Bless all persons and places to which Thy providence hast made me a debtor ; all who have been instrumental to my good by their assistance, advice or example ; and make me in my turn useful to others. Let none of those that desire my prayers want Thy mercy, but defend and comfort and conduct them through to their lives' end.

From sudden, from unprepared death, good Lord deliver me, my family, and all that desire my prayers. May we never be surprised in sin ; and may Thy mercy supply whatever shall be wanting in our preparation for death.

For myself, with the submission of a penitent sinner, under the righteous sentence of death passed upon all mankind, I beg that I may so live, as that I may with joy resign my life a sacrifice

of obedience, in union with that of my Saviour's, to Thee, O Father, trusting in Thy mercy and goodness and promises in Jesus Christ, at the hour of death, and in the day of judgment.

This is indeed the first and great command, to love Thee, O God, with all our heart ; for on this depends our salvation. But even this must be the gift of Thy grace ; for this grace I now apply to Thee, to make my love and fear of Thee the governing principles of my whole life ; that I may always do what I believe will please Thee : that I may carefully avoid what I know will offend Thee : and that I may live as having Thee the constant witness of my thoughts, words and actions.

Give me a steadfast faith in Thy words and promises ; a firm trust in Thy power. Let the fear of Thy justice keep me from presumption ; and a sense of Thy goodness from despair. Defend me from all those bewitching snares which destroy our love of Thee ; from worldly cares, from sensual and sinful pleasures ; from evil company ; from foolish diversions ; and from everything that may make me forget that Thou alone art worthy to be feared and loved ; grant me these mercies for Thy Son Jesus Christ His sake.

Amen.



THE PRAYERS OF SAMUEL
JOHNSON, LL.D.

On his Birthday



GOD, the Creator and Preserver of mankind, Father of all mercies, I, Thine unworthy servant, do give Thee most humble thanks for all Thy goodness and loving kindness to me. I bless Thee for my creation, preservation and redemption, for the knowledge of Thy Son Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, the hope of glory.

In the days of childhood and youth, in the midst of weakness, blindness and danger, Thou hast protected me ; amidst afflictions of mind, body, and estate Thou hast supported me ; and amidst vanity and weakness Thou hast spared me. Grant, O most merciful Father, that I may have a lively sense of Thy mercies. Create in me a contrite heart, that I may worthily lament my sins and acknowledge my wickedness, and obtain remission and forgiveness through the satisfaction of Jesus Christ.

And, O Lord, enable me, by Thy grace, to redeem the time I have spent in sloth, vanity and wickedness, and to make useful gifts to the honour of Thy Name, to lead a new life in Thy faith, fear and love, and finally to obtain everlasting life.

Grant this, Almighty Lord, for the merits, and

through the mediation of our most holy and blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ, to whom, with Thee, and the Holy Ghost, three persons in one God, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*



On his Wife's Death

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who lovest those whom Thou punishest and turnest away Thine anger from the penitent, look down with pity upon my sorrows and grant that the affliction which it has pleased Thee to bring upon me may awaken my conscience, enforce my resolutions of a better life, and impress upon me such conviction of Thy power and goodness, that I may place in Thee all my felicity, and endeavour to please Thee in all my thoughts, words and actions. Grant, O Lord, that I may not languish in fruitless and unavailing sorrow, but that I may consider from whose hand all good and evil is received, and may remember that I am punished for my sins, and hope for comfort only by repentance. Grant, O merciful God, that, by the assistance of Thy Holy Spirit, I may repent and be comforted, obtain that peace which the world cannot give, pass the residue of my life in humble resignation and cheerful obedience; and when it shall please Thee to call me from this mortal state, resign myself into Thine hands with faith

and confidence, and finally obtain mercy and everlasting happiness, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



On Beginning a New Work

ALMIGHTY God, the giver of all good things, without whose help all labour is ineffectual, and without whose grace all wisdom is folly ; grant, I beseech Thee, that in this, my undertaking, Thy Holy Spirit may not be withheld from me, but that I may promote Thy glory, and the salvation both of myself and others ; grant this, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



On Entering a New State of Life

ALMIGHTY God, Heavenly Father, who hast graciously prolonged my life to this time, and by the change of outward things which I am now to make, callest me to a change of inward affections and to a reformation of my thoughts, words and practices ; vouchsafe, merciful Lord, that this call may not be in vain. Forgive me whatever has been amiss in the state which I am now leaving, idleness and neglect of Thy word and worship. Grant me the grace of Thy Holy

Spirit, that the course which I am now beginning may proceed according to Thy laws, and end in the enjoyment of Thy favour. Give me, O Lord, pardon and peace, that I may serve Thee with humble confidence, and after this life, enjoy Thy presence in eternal happiness.

And, O Lord, so far as it may be lawful for me, I commend to Thy fatherly goodness my father, my brother, my wife, my mother. I beseech Thee to look mercifully upon them, and grant them whatever may most promote their present and eternal joy.

O Lord, hear my prayers for Jesus Christ's sake, to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost, three persons and one God, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*



On the Day of his Mother's Burial

ALMIGHTY God, merciful Father, in whose hands are life and death, sanctify unto me the sorrows which I feel. Forgive me whatever I have done unkindly to my mother, and whatever I have omitted to do kindly. Make me to remember her good precepts and good example, and to reform my life according to Thy holy word, that I may lose no more opportunities of good. I am sorrowful, O Lord; let not my sorrow be without fruit. Let it be followed by holy resolu-

tions and lasting amendment, that when I shall die, like my mother, I may be received to everlasting life.

I commend, O Lord, so far as it may be lawful, into Thy hands, the soul of my departed mother, beseeching Thee to grant her whatever is most beneficial to her in her present state.

O Lord, grant me Thy Holy Spirit, and have mercy upon me, for Jesus Christ's sake.

And, O Lord, grant unto me, that am now about to return to the common comforts and business of the world, such moderation in all enjoyments, such diligence in honest labour, and such purity of mind, that amidst the changes, miseries or pleasures of life, I may keep my mind fixed upon Thee, and improve every day in grace, till I shall be received into Thy kingdom of eternal happiness.



THE PRAYER OF JOHN DONNE, D.D.

In the Time of Sickness



ETERNAL AND MOST GRACIOUS GOD, who calledst down fire from Heaven upon the sinful cities, but once, and openedst the earth to swallow the murmurers, but once, and threwest down the tower of Siloam upon sinners, but once, but for

Thy works of mercy repeatest them often and still workest by Thine own patterns, as Thou broughtest man into this world, by giving him a helper fit for him ; so whether it be Thy will to continue me long thus or to dismiss me by death, be pleased to afford me the help fit for both conditions, either for my weak stay here, or my final transmigration hence. And if Thou mayest receive glory by that way (and by all ways Thou mayest receive glory), glorify Thyself by preserving this body from such infection, as might withhold those, who would come or endanger them who do come ; and preserve this soul, in the faculties thereof, from all such distempers as might shake the assurance which myself and others have had, that, because Thou hast loved me, Thou wouldest love me, to my end, and at my end. Open none of my doors, not of my heart, not of my ears, not of my house, to any supplanter that would enter to undermine me in my religion, in the time of my sickness : or to defame me and magnify himself with false rumours of such a victory and surprisal of me, after I am dead.

Be my salvation and plead my salvation ; work it and declare it ; and as Thy triumphant shall be, so let the militant Church be, assured that Thou wast my God and I Thy servant to and in my consummation. *Amen.*



THE PRAYERS OF BP. JEREMY
TAYLOR, D.D.

For the Morning

BLESS me, gracious God, in my calling to such purposes as Thou shalt choose for me or employ me in : relieve me in all my sadnesses : make my bed in my sickness : give me patience in my sorrows, confidence in Thee, and grace to call upon Thee in all temptations. O be Thou my guide in all my actions ; my protector in all dangers ; give me a healthful body and a clear understanding ; a sanctified and just, a charitable and humble, a religious and a contented spirit ; let not my life be miserable and wretched ; nor my name stained with sin and shame ; nor my condition lifted up to a tempting and dangerous fortune ; but let my condition be blessed, my conversation useful to my neighbours and pleasing to Thee ; that when my body shall lie down in its bed of darkness, my soul may pass into the regions of light, and live with Thee for ever, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



For the Evening

I

O ETERNAL God, great Father of men and angels, who hast established the heavens and the

earth in a wonderful order, making day and night to succeed each other, I make my humble address to Thy Divine Majesty, begging of Thee mercy and protection this night and ever.

O Lord, pardon all my sins, my light and rash words, the vanity and impiety of my thoughts, my unjust and uncharitable actions, and whatsoever I have transgressed against Thee this day, or at any time before. Behold, O God, my soul is troubled in the remembrance of my sins, in the frailty and sinfulness of my flesh, exposed to every temptation, and of itself not able to resist any. Lord God of Mercy, I earnestly beg of Thee to give me a great portion of Thy grace, such as may be sufficient and effectual for the mortification of all my sins, and vanities and disorders: that as I have formerly served my lust and unworthy desires, so now I may give myself up wholly to Thy service and the studies of a holy life.



II

INTO Thy hands, most blessed Lord Jesu, I commend my soul and body, for Thou hast redeemed both with Thy precious blood. So bless and sanctify my sleep unto me, that it may be temperate, holy and safe; a refreshment to my wearied body, to enable it so to serve my soul that both may serve Thee with a never-failing

duty. O, let me never sleep in sin, or death eternal, but give me a watchful and a prudent spirit, that I may omit no opportunity of serving Thee ; that whether I sleep or wake, or die, I may be Thy servant and Thy child ; that when the work of my life is done I may rest in the bosom of my Lord, till by the voice of the Archangel, the trump of God, I shall be awakened and called to sit down and feast in the eternal supper of the Lamb. Grant this, O Lamb of God, for the honour of the mercies and the glory of Thy Name, O most merciful Saviour and Redeemer Jesus. *Amen.*



SIR PHILIP SIDNEY

 ALL-SEEING light and eternal life of all things, to whom nothing is either so great that it may resist, or so small that it is contemned ; look upon my misery with Thine eye of Mercy, and let Thine infinite power vouchsafe to limit out some proportion or deliverance unto me, as to Thee shall seem most convenient. Let not injury, O Lord, triumph over me, and let my faults by Thy hand be corrected, and make not mine unjust enemy the minister of Thy justice. But yet, my God, if in Thy wisdom this be the aptest chastisement for my inexcusable folly, if this low bondage be fitted

for my over high desires, if the pride of my not enough humble heart be thus to be broken, O Lord, I yield unto Thy will, and joyfully embrace what sorrow Thou wilt have me suffer. Only thus much let me crave of Thee ; let my craving, O Lord, be accepted of Thee, since even that proceeds from Thee ; let me crave, even by the noblest title, which in my greatest affliction I may give myself, that I am Thy creature, and by Thy goodness, which is Thyself, that Thou wilt suffer some beam of Thy majesty so to shine into my mind, that it may still depend confidently on Thee. Let calamity be the exercise but not the overthrow of my virtue ; let their power prevail, but prevail not to destruction. Let my greatness be their prey ; let my pain be the sweetness of their revenge ; let them, if so it seem good unto Thee, vex me with more and more punishment ; but, O Lord, let never their wickedness have such a hand but that I may carry a pure mind in a pure body.



THE PRAYER OF SIR THOMAS BROWNE

DISPOSE of me, O Lord, according to the wisdom of Thy pleasure : Thy will be done, though in my own undoing.

THE PRAYERS OF FRANCIS BACON

MOST GRACIOUS LORD GOD, my merciful Father, from my youth up, my Creator, my Redeemer, my Comforter. Thou (O Lord) soundest out and searchest the depths and secrets of all hearts: Thou knowledgest the upright of heart, Thou judgest the hypocrite, Thou ponderest men's thoughts and doings as in a balance, Thou measurest their intentions as with a line, vanity and crooked ways cannot be hid from Thee.

Remember, O Lord, how Thy servant has walked before Thee! remember what I have first sought, and what has been principal in my intentions. I have loved Thy assembly, I have mourned for the divisions of Thy Church, I have delighted in the brightness of Thy sanctuary. This vine which Thy right hand has planted in this nation, I have ever prayed unto Thee that it might have the first and latter rain, and that it might stretch its branches to the seas and to the floods. The state and bread of the poor and oppressed have been precious in mine eyes: I have, though in a despised weed, procured the good of all men. If any have been mine enemies I thought not of them; neither hath the sun almost set upon my displeasure; but I have been as a dove, free from superfluity of maliciousness. Thy creatures have been my

books, but Thy Scriptures much more. I have sought Thee in the courts, fields, and gardens, but I have found Thee in Thy temples.

Thousand have been my sin, and ten thousand my transgression, but Thy sanctifications have remained with me, and my heart, through Thy grace, hath been an unquenched coal upon Thy altar. O Lord, my strength, I have, since my youth, met with Thee in all my ways, by Thy fatherly compassions, by Thy comfortable chastisements, by Thy most visible Providence. As Thy favours have increased upon me so have Thy corrections; so hast Thou been always near me, O Lord; and ever, as my worldly blessings were exalted, so secret darts from Thee have pierced me; and when I have ascended before men I have descended in humiliation before Thee.

And now, when I thought most of peace and honour, Thy hand is heavy upon me and hath humbled me, according to Thy former loving-kindness keeping me still in Thy Fatherly school, not as a bastard but as a child. Just are Thy judgments upon me for my sins, which are more in number than the sands of the sea, but have no proportion to Thy mercies; for what are the sands of a sea, earth, and heavens? and all these are nothing to Thy mercies.

Besides my innumerable sins, I confess before Thee that I am a debtor to Thee for the gracious talent of the gifts and graces which I have neither put into a napkin nor put it (as I

thought) to exchanges where it might have made best profit ; so as I may truly say, my soul hath been a stranger in the course of my pilgrimage. Be merciful unto me, O Lord, for my Saviour's sake, and receive me into Thy bosom, or guide me in Thy ways.



The Student's Prayer

To God the Father, God the Word, God the Spirit, we pour forth the most humble and hearty supplications ; that He, remembering the calamities of mankind and the pilgrimage of this our life, in which we wear out days few and evil, would please to open to us new refreshments out of the fountains of His goodness, for the alleviating of our miseries. This also we humbly and earnestly beg, that human things may not prejudice such as are divine ; neither that from the unlocking of the gates of sense, and the kindling of the greater natural light, anything of incredulity or intellectual night may arise in our minds towards the Divine Mysteries. But rather that by our mind thoroughly cleansed and purged from fancy and vanities, and yet subject and perfectly given up to the divine oracles, there may be given unto Faith the things that are Faith's. *Amen.*

The Writer's Prayer

THOU ! O Father ! who gavest the visible Light as the firstborn of Thy creatures, and didst pour into man intellectual light as the top and consummation of Thy workmanship, be pleased to protect and govern this work, which, coming from Thy goodness, returneth to Thy glory. Thou, after Thou hadst reviewed the works which Thy hands had made, beheldest that *everything was very good* ; and Thou didst rest in complacency in them. But man, reflecting on the works which he had made, saw that all was *vanity and vexation of spirit*, and could by no means acquiesce in them. Wherefore, if we labour in Thy works with the sweat of our brows, Thou wilt make us partakers of Thy Vision and Thy Sabbath. We humbly beg that this mind may be steadfastly in us, and that Thou, by our hands and also by the hands of others, on whom Thou shalt bestow the same spirit, wilt please to convey a largess of new alms to Thy family of mankind. These things we commend to Thy everlasting love, by our Jesus, Thy Christ, God with us. *Amen.*



PRAYERS USED BY DEAN SWIFT
FOR MRS. JOHNSON IN HER
LAST SICKNESS

I



ALMIGHTY AND MOST GRACIOUS LORD GOD, extend, we beseech Thee, Thy pity and compassion toward this Thy languishing servant : teach her to place her hope and confidence entirely on Thee : give her a true sense of the emptiness and vanity of all earthly things : make her truly sensible of all the infirmities of her life past, and grant to her such a true and sincere repentance as is not to be repented of.

Preserve her, O Lord, in a sound mind and understanding, during this Thy visitation ; keep her from both the sad extremes of presumption and despair. If Thou shalt please to restore her to her former health, give her grace to be ever mindful of that mercy, and to keep those good resolutions she now makes in her sickness, so that no length of time nor prosperity may entice her to forget them.

Let no thought of her misfortunes distract her mind and prevent the means towards her recovery, or disturb her in her preparations for a better life. We beseech Thee, also, O Lord, of Thy infinite goodness, to remember the good actions of this Thy servant ; that the naked she

hath clothed, the hungry she hath fed, the sick and the fatherless whom she hath relieved, may be reckoned, according to Thy gracious promise, as if they had been done unto Thee. Hearken, O Lord, to the prayers offered up by the friends of this Thy servant in her behalf, and especially those now made by us unto Thee. Give Thy blessing to those endeavours used for her recovery ; but take from her all violent desire either of life or death, farther than with resignation to Thy holy will. And now, O Lord, we implore Thy gracious favour toward us here met together. Grant that the sense of this Thy servant's weakness may add strength to our faith ; that we, considering the infirmities of our natures and the uncertainty of life, may, by this example, be drawn to repentance before it shall please Thee to visit us in like manner. Accept these prayers, we beseech Thee, for the sake of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ our Lord ; who, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end.
Amen.



II

MOST merciful Father, accept our humblest prayers in behalf of this Thy languishing servant ; forgive the sins, the frailties, and infirmities of her life past. Accept the good deeds she

hath done in such manner, that at whatever time Thou shalt please to call her, she may be received into everlasting habitations; give her grace to continue sincerely thankful to Thee for the many favours Thou hast bestowed upon her, the ability, and inclination, and practice to good and those virtues which have procured the esteem and love of her friends, and a most unspotted name in the world. O God, Thou dispensest Thy blessings and Thy punishments as it becometh infinite justice and mercy; and since it was Thy pleasure to afflict her with a long, constant, weakly state of health, make her truly sensible that it was for very wise ends, and was largely made up to her in other blessings more valuable and less common.

Continue to her, O Lord, that firmness and constancy of mind wherewith Thou hast most graciously endowed her, together with that contempt of worldly things and vanities that she hath shown in the whole conduct of her life. O all-powerful Being, the least motion of whose will can create or destroy a world, pity us, the mournful friends of Thy distressed servant, who sink under the weight of her present condition, and the fear of losing the most valuable of our friends; restore her to us, O Lord, if it be Thy gracious will, or inspire us with constancy and resignation to support ourselves under so heavy an affliction. Restore her, O Lord, for the sake of those poor who, by losing her, will be desolate, and those sick, who will not only want her

bounty, but her care and tending ; or else, in Thy mercy, raise up some other in her place with equal disposition and better abilities. Lessen, O Lord, we beseech Thee, her bodily pains, or give her a double strength of mind to support them. And, if Thou wilt soon take her to Thyself, turn our thoughts rather upon that felicity which we hope she shall enjoy, than upon that unspeakable loss we shall endure.

Let her memory be ever dear unto us, and the example of her many virtues, as far as human infirmity will admit, our constant imitation. Accept, O Lord, these prayers, poured from the very bottom of our hearts, in Thy mercy, and for the merits of our blessed Saviour. *Amen.*



FROM THE "IMITATIO CHRISTI"

BESEECH THEE, my most gracious God, preserve me from the cares of this life, lest I should be too much entangled therein ; also from the many necessities of the body, lest I should be so ensnared by pleasure ; and from whatsoever is an obstacle to the soul, lest being broken with troubles I should be overthrown.

O my God, Thou sweetness ineffable, make bitter for me all carnal comfort, which draws me away from the love of eternal things and in evil

manner allures me to itself by the view of some present delightful good.

Let me not be overcome, O Lord, let me not be overcome by flesh and blood ; let not the world, and the short glory thereof, deceive me ; let not the devil and his subtle fraud supplant me.

Give me strength to resist, patience to endure, and constancy to persevere.

Give me, instead of all the comforts of the world, the most sweet unction of Thy spirit, or in lieu of carnal love pour in the love of Thy Name.

Behold ! meat, drink, clothes and other necessities for the maintenance of the body are burdensome unto a fervent spirit.

Grant me to use such refreshment moderately, and not to be entangled with an over-great desire of them.

It is not lawful to cast away all things ; because nature is to be sustained ; but to desire superfluities, and those things that are merely pleasurable, the holy law forbiddeth us, for then the flesh would rebel against the spirit. Herein, I beseech Thee, let Thy hand govern me and teach me that I may not exceed the due bounds.



The Rev. E. B. PUSEY



BLESSED ONLY SAVIOUR, happy they who have left all to follow Thee, to be where Thou art, to sit down on Thy throne, to taste of Thy sweetness, to gaze on Thy beauty, to be filled with Thine unimaginable love. Draw us, Lord, that we may run after Thee. Look down as from Thy cross on us, who wouldest draw all unto Thee. Kindle, soften, break our hard, cold hearts that we be ashamed to be so unlike Thee. Fill our faces with shame, that we may see Thy face. Give us of that love wherewith Thou lovedst us, that we, loving Thee in Thy members, may be loved of Thee and owned of Thee, and enter into Thine everlasting love, who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, art one God, to whom be blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving and power and might for ever and ever. *Amen.*



PRAYERS OF Bp. ANDREWES

For a Married Man



GRACIOUS FATHER, maker and preserver of Heaven and earth, who in the beginning didst institute matrimony, thereby foretelling the mystical union of the

Church with our Saviour Christ, who in the time of His being upon earth did honour marriage with His first miracle, and hast appointed it also for a means whereby mankind is propagated, for a remedy to avoid unlawful lust, and for the mutual comfort and consolation of Thy children; I humbly entreat Thee to give me the assistance of Thy divine grace, that I may live according to Thy commandments with my wife, whom Thou hast given me for my help and comfort in this world. Mortify me in all unclean, dishonest and fleshly lusts; let not the heat of unlawful concupiscence take hold of me, but make me to be fully pleased and satisfied with her love, and to love her as Christ loved His Church, to cherish and comfort her as mine own body, and to have as great a care of her health as of mine own. Grant that we may live in peace without debate, in unity without discord, like members of one body equally desirous to praise Thy Holy Name. And give us, O Lord, discreet hearts and understanding minds, to bring up our children in Thy faith and fear, in a religious, honest, and civil manner. Give them obedient hearts to Thee and Thy commandments, and to all that Thou requirest of them to be performed in duty towards their parents. Keep them from those which are ready to seduce them, and so lead them in Thy faith, fear and knowledge, that they prove not a curse but a blessing unto us, and thereby attain to that blessing which Thou hast promised to those who honour and obey

their parents. Grant likewise, O Lord, that I may guide and instruct the family which is under me in Thy fear, and in an honest and careful manner provide as well for their bodies as their souls. And give them the like grace, O Lord, to perform their duties in fear and obedience, not as eye-servants, but in simplicity of heart, as in Thy sight. And give us, O Lord, a competency of estate to maintain ourselves, children and family, according to that rank of calling wherein Thou of Thy goodness hast placed us, without excess, riot or vain-glory, and in singleness and pureness of heart ; with all humility relying upon Thy blessed will, who knowest better than we ourselves what is needful for us. Grant this, O Lord, for Jesus Christ's sake, to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*



For a Married Woman

O MERCIFUL and loving Lord God, who, in the beginning, for the propagation of mankind, didst take Eve out of the side of Adam, and give her to him as a helper : I give Thee humble thanks that Thou hast vouchsafed to call me to the honourable estate of matrimony. Give me grace, O Lord, that I may lead a life worthy thereof ; that I may love my husband with a pure and chaste love, acknowledge him for my head, and

truly reverence and obey him in all good things : that thereby I may please him, and live quietly with him. Grant that I be not carried away with the vain fashions of this world, but may put on such habits as may be agreeable and suitable with the estate of my husband, and may become a modest woman to wear. Help me, O Lord, that I may, under him, prudently and discreetly guide and govern his household and family, and carefully look that nothing be either carelessly lost or wickedly committed in my house. Fit me with those good graces which the wise man describeth in a good woman, and St. Peter in holy and sanctified matrons. Give me such a care concerning the education of my children, as belongeth to my part, that I may live to see them prosper in this life, and afterwards be received with them to Thy eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



For a Child

O ALMIGHTY Lord God, to whom the obedience of children to their parents is most acceptable, and all disobedience most displeasing, who hast promised a blessing to the dutiful and threatened a curse to the disobedient child ; I beseech Thee to put away from me the detestable sin of disobedience and rebellion against my parents, and

give me grace to observe them with all kind of duty, to obey them in all their just commands, and make me able and helpful to them at all times of their need. Give me grace to bear all their reproofs, and even their errors patiently, and not to grieve them by stubborn and evil courses. Let me not be so far deprived of Thy grace, as to scoff at or deride them, though by age or infirmity they shall fail in their judgment or reason. Make me always to remember that under Thee I owe my life to them, and therefore to cherish, succour and support them in all their distresses. Lord, forgive all the offences which I have heretofore committed against them. Increase the number of their days, keep them safe in body and mind, let them see their children's children to their comfort and Thy glory. Let them govern us and the rest of their family, with wholesome discipline and good example, that at the last they may in their due time depart this life in peace and come to Thy kingdom unspotted, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



For a Young Man or Maïd

O LORD, forasmuch as I am at these years in the heat of the flesh and in the most dangerous time of my life, I beseech Thee, take not Thy mercy and fatherly providence from me, but, by how

much the greater danger of falling I am in, with so much the more care let Thy grace preserve me, lest I become a prey to the enemies of my soul, who assault me with so many temptations, that without Thy succour I shall never of myself be able to overcome them. But, O merciful Father, distrusting mine own strength, I betake myself wholly to Thy protection, and desire Thee both now and ever to keep me. Let me not get that habit of sinning in my younger years, that I be forced in my age (if I be not cut off before in my offences) to bewail the sins of my youth in the bitterness of my soul ; but rather accustom me from this time forward to all goodness, that I may daily more and more profit therein, and that serving Thee with a pure heart now, I may be able in my age to say with good King Hezekiah, “ O Lord, remember, I beseech Thee, how I have walked before Thee in truth, with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in Thy sight.” Most loving Father, who takest care of all men, I commend unto Thee my soul as a child, that can of himself do nothing ; defend me, I pray Thee, from all mine enemies, spiritual and temporal ; keep my body and soul pure, chaste, and undefiled, that I offend not either in obscene speech, impure thought, or unclean act. My chastity is a more precious jewel than I can keep without Thy help ; I therefore beseech Thee, who hast pronounced a blessing to the pure in heart, to keep my heart pure : be Thou my guide and preserver, lest in the heat of concupiscence I

forget Thee. Give me grace, O Lord, to serve and obey my parents, and those to whose government I am committed, and that in all humility ; and grant that, if Thou shalt be pleased to call me to the honourable estate of wedlock, I may be matched with one who is a sincere professor of Thy true religion, with whom I may serve Thee in peace and holiness all the days of my life, and at the last rest with Thee in Thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



For a Servant

BLESSED Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who, when Thou wast the Son of God and the Lord of the world, didst take upon Thee the form of a servant, that by Thy obedience Thou mightest purchase salvation for all people, as well bond as free ; I pray Thee that, since Thou hast been pleased to call me to the state of a servant, Thou wouldst give me a humble and obedient heart, and make me contented with this condition of life, as allotted to me by Thy providence. Grant that I may with gentleness of spirit, singleness of heart, and willingness of mind serve those under whom I am placed, and that I may not either murmur against them, nor envy those that are seated in a higher estate ; that I may obey them in all their honest commands with all fear

and true respect, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but with all my heart, and the rather because Thy commandment biddeth me so to do. Grant that, serving them diligently, faithfully, and carefully, I may avoid their displeasure, and obtain Thy favour and blessing, and at the end of my days may come to those blissful regions where Thou, with the Father and the blessed Spirit, dost reign in eternal glory, world without end. *Amen.*



PRAYERS OF ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON

Before Composing a Sermon



GLORD GOD OF TRUTH, I humbly beseech Thee to enlighten my mind by Thy Holy Spirit, that I may discern the true way to eternal salvation; and to free me from all prejudice and passion, from every corrupt affection and interest that may either blind or seduce me in search after it.

Make me impartial in my inquiry after truth, and ready, whenever it is discovered to me, to receive it in the love of it, to obey it from the heart, and to practise it in my life, and to continue steadfast in the profession of it to the end of my days.

I perfectly resign myself, O Lord, to Thy

conduct and direction, in confidence that Thy mercy and goodness is such, that Thou wilt not suffer those who sincerely desire to know the truth, and rely upon Thy guidance, finally to miscarry.

And if, in anything which concerns the true worship and service of Thee, my God, and the everlasting happiness of my soul, I am in any error and mistake, I earnestly beg of Thee to convince me of it, and to lead me into the way of truth, and to confirm and establish me in it daily more and more.

And I beseech Thee, O Lord, always to preserve in me a great compassion and sincere charity towards those that are in error and ignorance of Thy truth ; beseeching Thee to take pity on them and to bring them to the knowledge of it, that they may be saved. And because our blessed Saviour hath promised that all that do His will shall know His doctrine, grant, O Lord, that I may never knowingly offend Thee in anything, or neglect to do what I know to be Thy will and my duty.

Grant, O Heavenly Father, these my humble and hearty requests, for His sake who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, my blessed Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



A Prayer to God that He would be pleased
to assist and accept my preparation to
receive the Blessed Sacrament

I PROSTRATE myself before Thee, my most gracious God and merciful Father, in an humble acknowledgment of my unworthiness and insufficiency of myself for anything that is good. I am sensible that without Thee I can do nothing, and therefore do humbly implore Thy gracious assistance and acceptance of my endeavour to prepare myself for the worthy receiving of the blessed sacrament of the Body and Blood of Thy dear Son.

Stir up, I beseech Thee, such pious affections and dispositions in my soul, and fill my mind with such holy meditations as are suitable to this occasion. Grant me such a sense of my sins and of the sufferings of my blessed Saviour for them as may affect my heart with a deep sorrow for my sins and an eternal hatred and displeasure against them, and may effectually engage me to love and live to Him who died for me, Jesus Christ, my blessed Saviour and Redeemer.
Amen.



A Prayer to God to prepare my heart for the
worthy receiving of the Holy Sacrament,
and to make me partaker of the
blessings and benefits of it

I COME to Thee, O my Lord God, from whom are the preparation of the heart and the good disposition of our minds, for Thy worship and service. Fit me, O Lord, by hearty contrition for my sins, and a sincere resolution of a better course, to approach Thy altar. Accept of the expiation which Thy Son hath made of all my transgressions by the sacrifice of Himself, as a Lamb without spot or blemish. Let the remembrance of my sins and of His bitter sufferings for them, pierce my very heart and engage me for ever to love and serve Him, who laid down His life for me. Cleanse me, O Lord, from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, that I may be a meet guest for Thy holy table, and a real partaker of those blessings and benefits which are represented in the sacrament of Christ's body and blood. Strengthen, O God, all good resolutions in me ; enable me by Thy grace faithfully to perform the conditions of that covenant, which I made in baptism, and intend to renew in the holy sacrament by dedicating myself entirely and for ever to the service of my blessed Redeemer, who hath loved me and washed me from my sins in His own blood. To Him be

all honour and glory, thanksgiving and praise, love and obedience, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



Before the Minister begins the Service

I LIFT up my soul to Thee, my God, humbly imploring Thy blessing upon me, and gracious assistance of me in the holy action I am now about. Forgive my want of due preparation, and accept of my sincere desire to perform an acceptable service to Thee through Jesus Christ.



Before the Receiving of the Bread

LORD, I am not worthy of the crumbs which fall from Thy table.



After the Receiving of It

GREATER love than this hath no man, that a man lay down his life for his friend.



HEREIN hath God commended His love to us, that whilst we were enemies He gave His Son to die for us.

Before Receiving the Cup

WHAT shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits? I will take the cup of salvation, and I will bless the name of the Lord.



After the Receiving of It

BLESSED be God for His unspeakable gift, His dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, in whom we have Redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.



After the Conclusion of the Whole Action

BLESS the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgiveth all thine iniquities, and healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction, and crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies, who satisfieth thy mouth with good things. Bless the Lord, O my soul.



A Prayer to be used in Private afterwards

I PRAISE and magnify Thy great and glorious name, O Lord my God, for the blessed opportunity afforded to me this day of commemorating Thy infinite goodness and mercy to me and all mankind in sending Thy only Son into the world to take our nature upon Him, to submit to the infirmities and miseries of it, to live amongst us and to die for us, and to preserve the memory of this great love and goodness of Thine to us for ever in our hearts, that Thou hast been pleased to appoint the Blessed Sacrament for a solemn remembrance of it. Grant, O Lord, that I may faithfully keep and perform that holy covenant which I have this day so solemnly renewed and confirmed in Thy presence and at Thy table. Let it be an eternal obligation upon me of perpetual love and obedience to Thee. Let nothing seem hard for me to do or grievous for me to suffer for Thy sake, who, whilst I was a sinner and an enemy to Thee, lovedst me at such a rate as never any man did his friend. Grant that by this sacrament there may be conveyed to my soul new spiritual life and strength, and such a measure of Thy grace and assistance as may enable me to a greater care of my duty for the future; that I may henceforth live as becomes the redeemed of the Lord; even to Him who died for my sins, and rose again for my justification, and is now set down on the right

hand of the throne of God, to make intercession for me. In His holy Name and words I conclude my imperfect prayers.

Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that have trespassed against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever.
Amen.

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